Hafa Adai!

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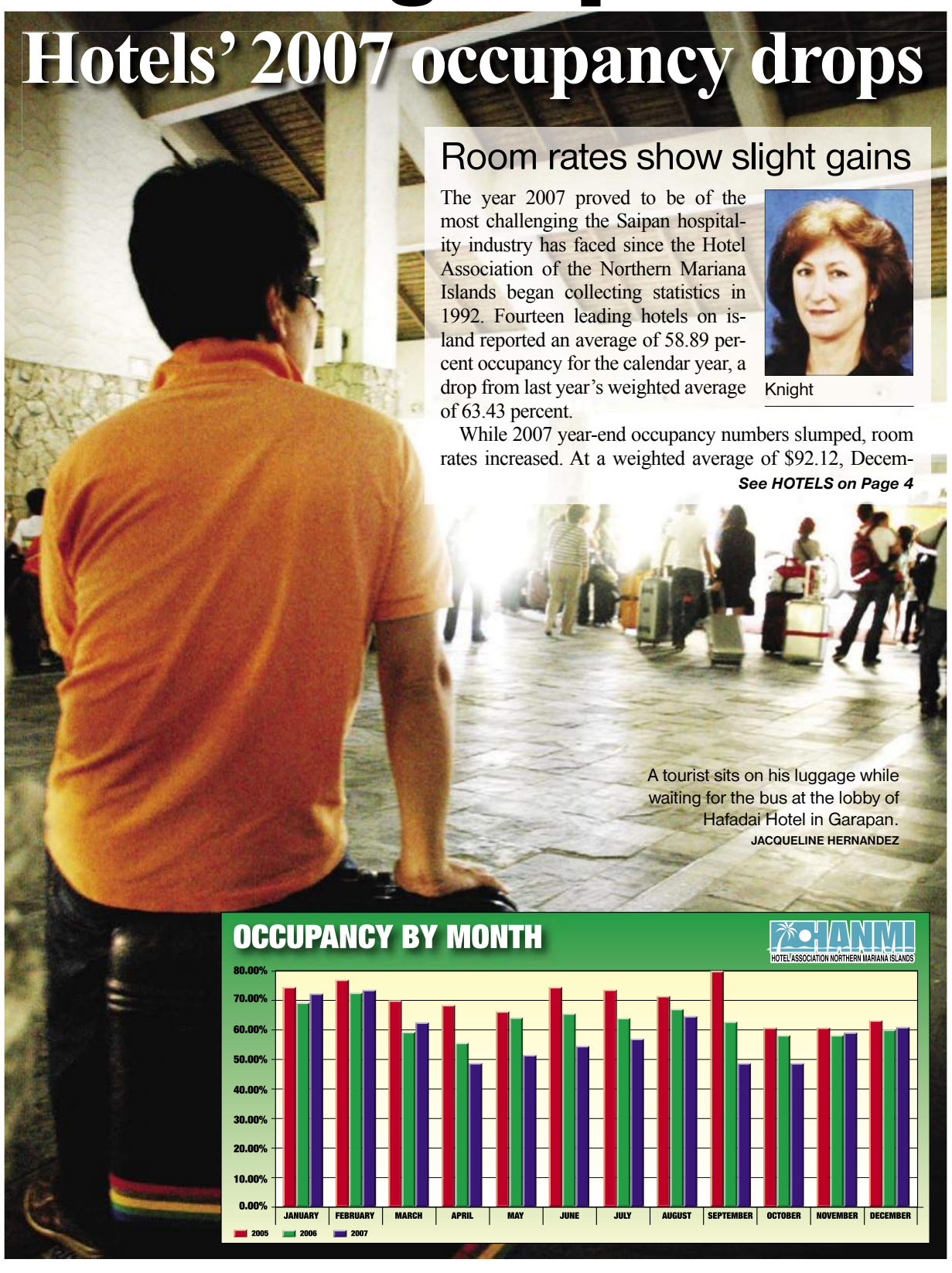
Bennett raises teacher rep issue to high court. **PAGE 3**

Islands' gas prices breach $4

Hotels' 2007 occupancy drops



A tourist sits on his luggage while waiting for the bus at the lobby of Hafadai Hotel in Garapan.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Room rates show slight gains

The year 2007 proved to be of the most challenging the Saipan hospitality industry has faced since the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands began collecting statistics in 1992. Fourteen leading hotels on island reported an average of 58.89 percent occupancy for the calendar year, a drop from last year's weighted average of 63.43 percent.

Knight

While 2007 year-end occupancy numbers slumped, room rates increased. At a weighted average of $92.12, Decem-

See HOTELS on Page 4

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The two oil companies on the islands increased their prices again on Saipan, the first of the year but the fourth time in the past two months.

Saipan Tribune learned that Mobil Oil increased its prices for regular, premium, and diesel fuel by eight cents a gallon effective Monday night.

Shell Marianas Inc. also increased its gas prices by eight cents a gallon effective last night.

"Shell is again forced to increase our retail price of regular, premium unleaded gasoline and diesel fuel effective at the close of business Jan. 8, 2008," said Shell Marianas president Ruben Domingo.

Domingo explained that the cost of finished products in Singapore, where Shell purchases its supply, has again set a new historical mark. Domingo said the continuing increase in Shell's fin-

See ISLANDS' on Page 4

Cabinet shuffle seen near end of the month

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Fitial

The promised Cabinet revamp this January will push through as planned, with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's press secretary indicating that changes are guaranteed to happen by the end of this month.

"I understand the governor is still deliberating on the Cabinet composition for 2008. Although the governor has not accepted any of the courtesy resignations or made any announcements yet, I

See CABINET on Page 4

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Did you max out your credit card(s) this past holiday season?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NH Primary
Her voice briefly breaking, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton struggle to avoid a highly damaging second straight defeat.

NATION...Page 14

Iranian Threat
An Iranian fleet of high-speed boats charge at and threaten to blow up a three-ship U.S. Navy convoy.

WORLD...Page 16

Critics' Choice
"No Country for Old Men" was the big winner at Monday's Critics' Choice Awards, winning best picture.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Local

Police solve Dandan hit-and-run crash

Alleged driver of truck arrested, vehicle impounded

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
delatorreferdie@yahoo.com
REPORTER

Police believe they have solved the hit-and-run vehicular crash in Dandan where a family of three was injured, following the arrest of the alleged driver of a vehicle Friday afternoon.

Police served an arrest warrant on Ruth Tinaggur Ruemau at 5:17pm in San Jose.

Ruemau, 37, was arrested for hit-and-run, failure to report an accident, and other traffic offenses. A $2,000 cash bail was imposed for her temporary release. She was not taken to court because she posted bail on Monday.

Police said Ruemau admitted being the driver of a silver 2006 Toyota Tacoma 4X4 four-door pickup truck with license plate ACC-367 that, according to investigators, was the vehicle that hit the brown 1992 Hyundai Elantra.

The incident happened along Dandan Main Road on Oct. 26, 2007 at 11:08pm. The Hyundai's occupants—Milet McEntee and her husband Charlie McEntee—were injured. Their eight-year-old daughter was slightly hurt.

Due to her serious injuries, Milet McEntee had to be transferred to a Philippine hospital where she eventually recovered.

The victims' car sustained extensive damage to the front and left parts. The McEntees were on their way home from a laundry shop when the accident happened.

Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr. stated in his report that an anonymous caller informed Detective Kelly Camacho on Nov. 17, 2007, that the pickup truck was parked at a residence in lower Dandan Homestead.

Acting on the information, Camacho and two other police officers proceeded to lower Dandan where they found the Toyota Tacoma.

The truck was parked near a wooden and tin shack at the residence of Ruemau and Michael E. Ngirbaubul. It had extensive damage to the right side. The registered owners were Ruemau and Ngirbaubul. Blas said police officers located Ruemau on that same day in San Jose.

Blas said Ruemau told police that she was the driver of the truck when it got damaged. Ruemau stated that she had struck an object somewhere in Dandan main road. Ruemau said she did not report the crash since all she hit was an object.

Blas said the defendant again made another statement and told a detective that prior to the crash on that night she was with her two daughters and was driving around because her youngest couldn't sleep.

Ruemau couldn't recall the exact time, but as she was traveling north on Dandan main road toward San Vicente between the Dandan Elementary School and Hi-Mart, she struck something with her vehicle and that the truck started to spin.

Ruemau said she left the scene and headed straight to lower Dandan Homestead where she parked her vehicle.

Blas said that on the same day (Nov. 17) when police saw the truck, Ruemau drove the vehicle to the Department of Public Safety where she gave consent to a search and seize of the truck. Police impounded the truck. Paint transfers and paint chips were collected from the vehicle.

Blas said the paint chips collected were of the same color as that of McEntees' car. The damage on the vehicle, Blas said, were consistent with the statements given and of the damage on the McEntees' car.

During his interview with Ruemau on Dec. 31, 2007, Blas said she claimed that earlier in the evening of Oct. 26, 2007, she had gone to the San Vicente School Halloween Dance between 8:30pm to 9pm and had picked up her daughter.

Ruemau, along with her daughter, went to the home of Ngirbaubul's mother in San Jose where she picked up the truck. Ruemau then went home but later woke up as her youngest daughter was crying. She left her house with her older daughter and the youngest and went driving around in the truck.

Ruemau said that, as she was driving north toward San Vicente past the Dandan softball field, her truck started to swerve and spin.

The truck encroached into the southbound lane and struck something. She claimed she then left the scene and headed down to lower Dandan Homestead.

Police's investigation showed that prior to the crash, the truck was observed weaving in and out of the northbound highway shoulder lane. The truck entered the southbound land and collided with the McEntees' sedan, then fled the scene heading south.

Milet McEntee's recovery in Manila lasted a week. She arrived back on Saipan on Dec. 26 to reunite with her three children and husband.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
A row of Hyundai cars at the Triple J parking lot.

Toyota was No. 1 car choice in 2007

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Toyota continued to be the automobile of choice for the CNMI in 2007 as a total of 271 units of the Japanese automaker were snapped up, representing 42.88 percent of the market.

In the latest figures from the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association, Toyota sold 160 cars, 33, trucks, 21 vans, and 57 sport utility vehicles last year.

Microl Corp. sells Toyota vehicles in the Commonwealth.

Despite leading the CNMI market for automobiles, Toyota however suffered a 31.57-percent decline in units sold from the 396 units it sold from the period January-December 2006.

The drop in unit sales in 2007 was a recurring theme among automobile makers last year as the continuing economic crunch dampened the attitude of potential new buyers.

A far second in units sold last year was Mazda with a total of 74 vehicles driven out of the showroom and parking lot of Triple J Motors in 2007. The figure represents 11.71 percent of the market and is a 22.11-percent drop from the 95 Mazda automobiles sold in 2006. Thirty-eight cars, 15 trucks, eight vans, and 13 SUVs from Mazda were disposed off last year.

Third in the totem pole of vehicle sales in 2007 was Nissan with 59 units sold. The 26 cars, 19 trucks, three vans, and 11 SUVs sold represent 9.34 percent of all vehicles sold in 2006, but more importantly, is a 48.70-percent drop from the 115 Nissan vehicles sold in 2006. The percentage drop is the third highest per vehicle make in 2006.

Joeten Motors sells Nissan on the islands.

Closing out the Top 5 are Ford (Joeten Motors) and Hyundai (Triple J Motors) with unit sales of 52 and 51, respectively, in 2007.

Ford captured 8.23 percent of the market after selling 12 cars, 18 trucks, 11 vans, and 11 SUVs last year. The figure is a 35.90-percent drop from the 81 units sold by the Detroit, MI-based carmaker in 2006.

Hyundai, meanwhile, had an 8.07 percent share of the auto market last year after 22 of its cars and 29 of its SUVs were snapped up by buyers in 2007. The 51 units represent a 45.61-percent decrease from the 93 units the South Korean automaker sold last year.

Sixth to 10th places were occupied by Honda (35 units) Kia and Mitsubish (32 each), Chevrolet (16), and Suzuki (10).

Honda, which had 5.54 percent of the market, saw 26 of its cars, two of its trucks, three of its vans, and four of its SUVs driven off from Joeten Motors' showroom and parking lot last year. The units, however, represent a market-high 54.55-per-

See TOYOTA on Page 4

CADA: 469 used cars sold in '07

A total of 469 used cars were sold by the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association last year, according to figures from the umbrella organization of Microl Corp., Joeten Motors, and Triple J. Motors.

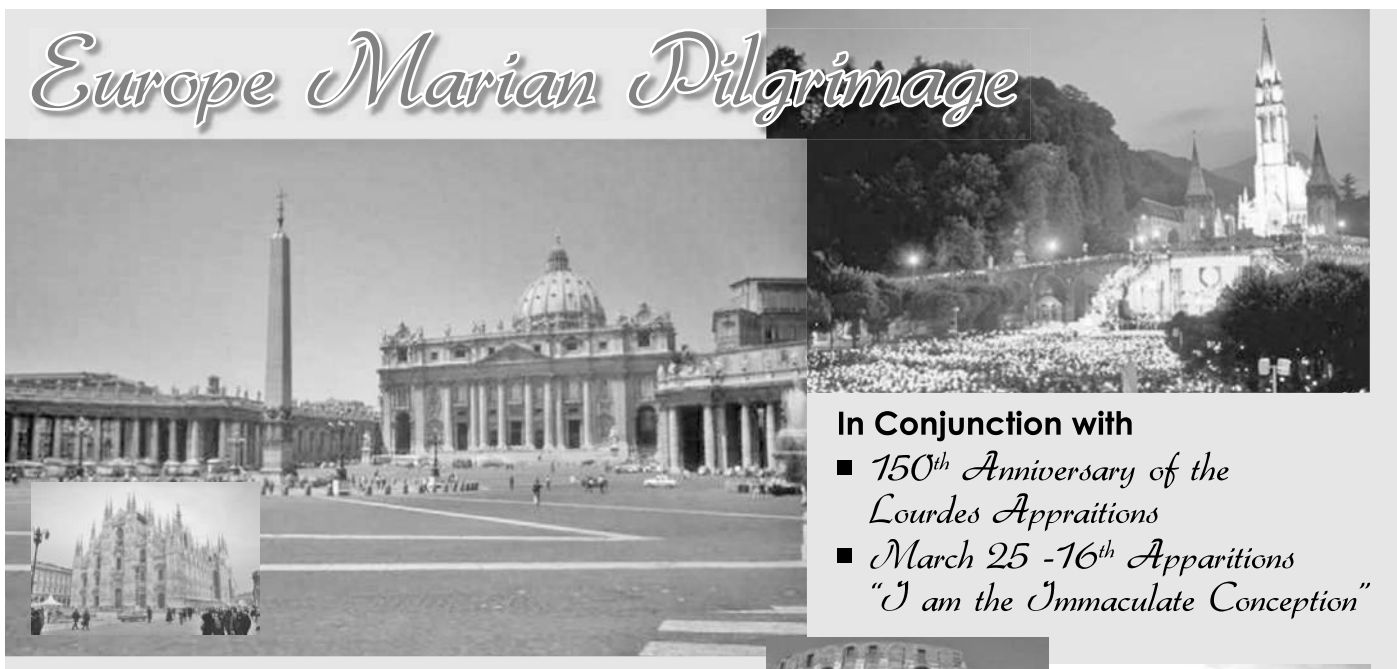
Microl Corp. had the biggest share of the used car market at 43.3 percent after disposing of 203 second-hand vehicles the whole of 2007.

At 32.2 percent, Triple J Motors was the second in terms of market share with 151 used cars sold last year.

Joeten Motors bring up the rear with 115 second-hand vehicles sold last year, which represented 24.5 percent of the market for used cars.

For the month of December 2007, a total of 48 used cars rolled out of the parking lots of CADA led by Microl Corp.'s 22 units (45.8 percent market share), Triple J. Motors' 14 units (29.2 percent), and Joeten Motors' 12 units (25 percent).

Microl Corp. sells Toyota and Chevrolet brands, while Joeten Motors sells Nissan, Ford, Honda, and Kia. Triple J Motors sells Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki, Subaru, and Mazda. ***(Mark Rabago)***



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Bennett raises teacher rep issue to high court

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Teacher Representative Ambrose Bennett submitted to the CNMI Supreme Court a list of "certified questions" regarding the selection of the exclusive bargaining representative of teachers as outlined in CNMI Constitution.

Bennett asked Chief Justice Miguel Demapan for help with a "formal resolution to this matter by presenting the necessary certified questions to the CNMI Supreme Court for a resolution in accordance with the CNMI Constitution."

In a letter to Demapan dated Jan. 3, 2008, Bennett cited Article IV Section 11, as the basis for the submissions of the questions.

Whenever a dispute arises between or among Commonwealth officials regarding the exercise of their powers or responsibilities under the Constitution or any law, the parties to the dispute may certify to the Supreme Court the legal question raised. If the request is accepted, then the ruling of the Supreme Court shall be binding upon the parties before the court. The Supreme Court may also deny the request.

Bennett said he submitted the "certified questions" to the Supreme Court "for the purpose of resolving official disputes."

He said the selection or election process, the collective bargaining rights of teachers and the role of the governor in the Teacher Rep election process and appointment are CNMI Constitutional questions that need clarification.

"The changing interpretations of the Constitution by the past three governors and the unqualified interpretations of teacher groups is proof that the court is the only legal means to resolve these constitutional disputes over interpretations of the CNMI Constitution," Bennett said.

The CNMI Constitutional requires the Board of Education Teacher Representative to be selected "by an exclusive bargaining representative of teachers within the Department of Education."

"That has never been completely fulfilled," Bennett said.

He added that the "major problem" is that there has never been a recognized "exclusive bargaining of representative of teachers" established to fulfill such requirement.

This, he said, "is the source of the many disputes."

To satisfy the requirement, Bennett said he is offering a proposal for Demapan's review and approval for an "exclusive bargaining representative of teachers within the Department of Education."

Bennett's "certified questions" to the Supreme Court are as follows:

■ "The Constitution amendment requires an "exclusive bargaining representative of teachers"—What qualifies a group of teachers to be considered "exclusive bargaining representative of teachers within the PSS?"

■ "In the absence of a non-profit with a majority of teachers as member or as a union, will an exclusive bargaining group of teachers that have been selected by teachers at the school level to represent teachers at each school collectively fulfill this requirement (a collective of 20 teacher reps from each school)?"

■ "Is the Board of Education 'required to bargain' with the exclusive bargaining of representative of teachers once teachers have fulfilled the requirement?"

■ "Will an 'administrator' have a conflict of interest representing teachers as the BOE Teacher Rep?"

■ "What is the governor's role in the selection process in the absence of a recognized exclusive bargaining representative of teachers with the Public School System?"

■ "Who is responsible for conducting the selection process in the absence of an exclusive bargaining representative of teachers?"

■ "Is the Election Commission required to conduct the election for the post?"

Bennett believes that teachers recognized as the "exclusive bargaining representative of teachers" and achieve collective bargaining without becoming a "non-profit organization or a union" will end the potential for future disputes over the teacher rep post.

Motheread/Fatheread course schedule

The current Motheread/Fatheread Adult Course schedule is as follows:

■ Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 8 at The Children of Our Homeland Center, JKPL at 6pm;

■ Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 22 at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, at 6pm;

■ Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 22 at Tanapag Elementary School, at 6pm;

■ Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 23 at Kagman Elementary School, at 6pm;

■ Thursdays, beginning Jan. 24 at Garapan Elementary School, at 6pm;

■ Thursdays, beginning Jan. 24 at Oleai Elementary School, at 6pm;

■ Thursdays, beginning Jan. 24 at San Antonio Elementary School, at 6pm.

All courses meet once a week for eight weeks. Anyone who wants to learn how to best read to and with their children is welcome. Call 235-7319 for more information.

If you have any hard covered Motheread/Fatheread books that need to be returned, you may drop them off at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in the book drop, or you can call Viola Deleon Guerrero or Bryan Manabat at 235-7319 to have the book(s) picked up at your convenience. ***(PR)***

"I flew to Saipan to have my cataract surgery"
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ON CUC STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION

'Extension is a financial challenge'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The government takeover of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has already cost the CNMI a pretty penny and the 30-day extension of the state of emergency declaration is expected to further burden the islands' coffers.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's press secretary Charles Reyes admitted this much in an e-mail to the Saipan Tribune yesterday, but at the same time assured the public that the administration will do everything in its power to weather the crisis.

"In the extended emergency declaration, the governor will be challenged to fund CUC amid diminishing government resources and rising fuel costs, but the governor will make every effort to locate the funds under his constitutional authority within the emergency declaration," he said.

Reyes added that the governor will be relying on Finance Secretary Eloy Inos to identify the funds to be reprogrammed and that he will report to the Legislature and the public on the moves his administration would make to ease CUC's cash flow problems.

In a report to the Legislature, the governor said that some $9 million has been reprogrammed to the CUC since the state of emergency declaration.

He said $2.5 million was taken from Commonwealth funds to ensure fuel delivery to CUC on Dec. 15, 2007, with the rest sourced from Capital Improvement Projects or CIP monies. Affected government agencies shared a prorated amount of the $2.5 million expense.

Reyes also reiterated Fitial's call for better Executive-Legislature cooperation in solving the problems the Commonwealth is currently facing.

"Given our government's budget constraints, [the threat of] federalization, the federal minimum wage hike, inflation, rising fuel costs, garment factory closures, and CUC's situation, Governor Fitial believes it is absolutely critical for the Legislature to work cooperatively with the administration on resolving the CNMI's pressing financial challenges," he said.

The governor extended the state of emergency declaration for another 30 days beginning Friday, Jan. 4, 2008.

The state of emergency declaration allows the governor to assume full control of CUC and suspend all regulatory statute provisions and regulations applicable to CUC, including procurement regulations. The governor will also have the power to reprogram all available funds to address CUC's problems.

MHS offering AP courses for 8th year

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the eighth year in a row, the Marianas High School is offering Advanced Placement courses to its students.

"It was something one of our teachers, Dr. Chas Algaier, began to coordinate back in 2000," MHS assistant principal Jessica Barcinas said.

"They are the hallmark of high-quality educational opportunities at the secondary level; the more AP courses a school offers, the better the educational opportunities for students at the school," Barcinas added.

AP courses are college level courses. When high school students who are taking AP courses graduate in May, they will be able to obtain credits in some colleges in the U.S.

MHS, alone, has 11 authorized AP teachers. For a teacher to be authorized, they would have to go through an audit conducted by the AP Program in the U.S.

"They look at a teacher's syllabus and see if the subject they are teaching is at AP level," Barcinas said.

She added that no teacher can carry the AP name if he or she is not authorized.

Saipan has a total number of 21 authorized AP teachers: Marianas Baptist Academy, 2; Mount Carmel High School, 4; Saipan International School, 4; and Marianas High School, 11.

Barcinas herself wished her school had offered the courses when she graduated in 1992.

"We want people to know that we are doing very well in the public schools," Barcinas said.

ISLANDS'

From Page 1

ished product cost forces them to adjust their prices.

He said the price increase will be posted as of opening of business this morning (Wednesday).

With the increase, Shell's price for self-service regular gas will now be $3.949 per gallon and $4.139 per gallon for premium.

For full service, Shell's price for regular will now be $4.079, while premium is $4.259.

Shell's diesel's price will now be $4.219 per gallon.

Shell and Mobil now have similar prices.

In November 2007, the two companies increased their prices thrice. In December 2007, they did not adjust their prices.

HOTELS

From Page 1

ber's rates bested last year's average by $1.17. This slight rise in room rates is a result of room renovations and overall product enhancements. Association members have made over $60 million in improvements over the past few years, and continue to open new facilities including children's pools, spas and other improvements to rooms and hotel features.

Despite the low year-end occupancy, statistics for December 2007 show a rise in year-over-year occupancy and room rate, an uptick from the three months prior. The average room occupancy for December 2007 was 61.21 percent, up from 60.53 percent in December 2006, while the weighted average room rate was $103.67, up $6.71 from last year's rate.

Occupancy increases in the last 10 days of December were attributed to year-end seasonal charter flights from Japan, as well as increases in flights from Korea by Asiana Airlines. Beginning Dec. 21, 2007, Saipan saw the resumption of the Osaka flights by Northwest Airlines.

The 2007 HANMI year-end report also showed 34 percent of the 1,931 people employed by Saipan's hotels were local residents. The hotels contributed $5.7 million in hotel occupancy taxes and more than $2.8 million in gross receipts taxes.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Tourists double-check their bags at the lobby of Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan.

"The industry was hit hard in 2007, particularly in the last quarter, but HANMI is optimistic about 2008. We are projecting a 15 to 20 percent increase based on additional air service from Japan, Korea and China," said HANMI chairwoman Lynn A. Knight. "The charter flights we're seeing this month from Russia have also brought a great boost to the industry."

Although the industry is expecting some increases in visitor numbers, occupancy and room rates for 2008, HANMI is also carefully monitoring rising costs of doing business. "Many of these are factors that continue to increase beyond our control, such as shipping costs, fuel and personnel-related costs," noted Knight.

Some key issues the hospitality industry faces in 2008 include changes to the local labor laws, the federal immigration takeover bill, increased power costs as the price of oil has reached the $100/barrel mark, and a federally-mandated minimum wage increase scheduled for May 2008. Additionally, as shipping costs have increased, so have the costs of all basic supplies including food and other goods necessary to keep the hotels up and running.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985, after hotel executives came together and saw the need to form an organization representing the hospitality industry in the CNMI. Today the organization has over 30 members, including both hotels and allied members that do business with the industry. ***(HANMI)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MMAC Team Captain's meeting

The Marianas March Against Cancer Committee is inviting all previous and interested MMAC Team Captains or their representatives to attend the Team Captains' meeting on Monday, Jan. 14, 2008, at 5:30pm at the Aquarius Beach Tower, for the 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer.

If you or anyone you know has been affected by cancer, make the time and effort to attend this meeting as the 2008 MMAC is coming soon and the support of the community is vital in the battle against this terrible affliction. For more information, e-mail Chris A. Concepcion at chrisaconcepcion@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

MMAC committee meeting

The Marianas March Against Cancer Committee is inviting all committee members or their representatives to attend the MMAC Committee meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008, at 12pm, at Pierre's Restaurant in Garapan. Important information will be discussed at the meeting. For more information, e-mail Chris A. Concepcion at chrisaconcepcion@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

CABINET

From Page 1

expect that we will know by the end of this month," the governor's press secretary Charles Reyes said in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Reyes said the governor is mulling three choices: (1) maintain the existing Cabinet, (2) change the entire Cabinet, or (3) make a few changes.

"I believe it is highly unlikely that he would decide to maintain the existing Cabinet in its entirety or replace the entire Cabinet. More likely, a few changes will be made after careful consideration," said Reyes.

In an apparent move to keep his Cabinet on its toes, Fitial asked his appointees to turn in their resignations last Nov. 7. The resignations will be in effect when Fitial accepts them and it was inferred that the move would happen in early 2008.

Last Dec. 21, the governor's Special Assistant for Management and Budget Antonio Muna resigned, citing a desire to return to private practice. He is a partner at Sine & Muna Accounting and Tax Services.

However, while Muna will no longer be an official Cabinet member, he will serve as the governor's financial consultant on a contractual basis.

The possible Cabinet revamp was not the only administrative changes that the governor made for the second half of his term.

In November Fitial also issued a memorandum stating that he and Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez will be switching responsibilities in managing the government.

Fitial will be in charge of administration and government operations, including personnel matters, travel authorizations, and other related matters within the Executive Branch. Villagomez, meanwhile, will be responsible for the administration's economic efforts.

TOYOTA

From Page 2

cent decrease from the 77 units sold in 2007.

Kia (5.06 market share) sold 21 cars, six vans, and five SUVs in 2007 but experienced a 21.95-percent drop in units sales from the 41 sold a year ago. Kia is sold by Joeten Motors)

Triple J Motors' Mitsubishi (18 cars and 14 SUVs) had the same market share as Kia's but lost 40.71 percent of its sales compared to the 54 units disposed off in 2006.

Microl Corp.'s Chevrolet had 2.53 percent of the market last year but the three cars and 13 vans sold last year represent a 33.33 drop from the 24 it sold in 2006, while Suzuki's 10 units was exclusively made up of SUVs and is the second highest drop in sales at 52.38 percent from the 21 sold last year. Suzuki is sold by Triple J Motors.

Labor scrambles to slot in new duties

Labor Hearing Office's administration closed in the morning

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
delatorreferdie@yahoo.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor's Administrative Hearing Office's administration was closed yesterday morning as the staff were busy with new duties related to the effectivity of the controversial labor reform law.

Labor Administrative Hearing Office Administrator Rose Ada-Hocog placed a notice on the door of the office notifying clients that the hearing office will close until 1pm "for administrative purposes."

"We apologize for the inconvenience," said Ada-Hocog in the notice.

Saipan Tribune, however, noticed that administrative hearings continued yesterday morning.

When asked for the reason behind the closure, Ada-Hocog explained that it was just the administration area that was closed.

"As you know the new law [Public Law 15-108] is now in effect. I had to make a decision to open the administration part of my office at 1pm to allow us to catch up with some of our administrative duties," she said.

The closure yesterday morning was needed so they can tackle the new types of issues that are related to the new law, Ada-Hocog said.

"Our hearings continued, though," she said.

In the past few weeks, many alien workers, employers and their agents were scrambling at Labor to meet the Dec. 31 deadline to file consensual transfer applications.

Over 1,000 consensual transfer applications were reportedly filed in December alone.

"Under the new labor law there will be no consensual transfer. It eliminates the consensual transfer. They have to go through an administrative hearing before they're granted transfer," Ada-Hocog earlier said.

Meanwhile, the administrator also pointed out that effective Jan. 2, 2008 the Labor Processing Section is open in the morning to assist clients.

The Labor Processing Section, however, closes in the afternoon, she said.

DCCA secures $300K for gym improvements

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, in coordination with the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor, was able to secure roughly $300,000 for the improvements to the existing track and field at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

DCCA acting secretary Melvin L. Faisao, said they were able to secure the funding from the Housing Urban Development through the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

"This HUD grant funding will be mostly utilized in defrayment expense on the construction of a new grand stand, other amenities, and conditions as provided or required," Faisao said.

Division of Sports & Recreation director Joe Lizama said, "If I can remember correctly, it was two years ago when Tony Rogolifoi was the director that we tried to get the funding, so we were all really happy when they finally gave it to us."

He added that the funding for track improvement is timely for the Oceania Championship that will be held in June 2008 on Saipan.

Lizama said the $300,000 grant will be used to complete Phase 1, which is the "completion and improvements of the track."

"This project will surely provide DS&R [Division of Sports & Recreation] the means in promoting healthy track and field sports viability in the CNMI," Faisao said.

"This project is amongst the many developments that the current administration undertakes for the benefit of the community and visitors—sport players and spectators who frequent the CNMI," Faisao said.

He said the Request for Proposal, which is forthcoming, is now being drafted.

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Stadt Hamburg	V010	12/29 Sat	1/3 Thu	1/14 Mon	1/3 Thu	12/31 Mon	12/22 Sat	1/6 Sun	1/7 Mon	1/6 Sun	1/9 Wed	12/29 Sat	12/30 Sun	1/4 Fri	1/5 Sat	1/10 Thu	1/12 Sat	SKIP	1/16 Wed	1/18 Fri	1/19 Sat	1/22 Tue
Slyvette	V014	1/5 Sat	1/10 Thu	1/21 Mon	1/10 Thu	1/5 Sat	12/29 Sat	1/13 Sun	1/14 Mon	1/13 Sun	1/16 Wed	1/5 Sat	1/6 Sun	1/11 Fri	1/12 Sat	1/17 Thu	1/19 Sat	1/22 Tue	1/23 Wed	1/25 Fri	1/26 Sat	1/29 Tue
Haneburg	V028	1/12 Sat	1/17 Thu	1/28 Mon	1/17 Thu	1/12 Sat	1/5 Sat	1/20 Sun	1/21 Mon	1/20 Sun	1/23 Wed	1/12 Sat	1/13 Sun	1/18 Fri	1/19 Sat	1/24 Thu	1/26 Sat	SKIP	1/30 Wed	2/1 Fri	2/2 Sat	2/5 Tue
Stadt Hamburg	V011	1/19 Sat	1/24 Thu	2/4 Mon	1/24 Thu	1/19 Sat	1/12 Sat	1/27 Sun	1/28 Mon	1/27 Sun	1/30 Wed	1/19 Sat	1/20 Sun	1/25 Fri	1/26 Sat	1/31 Thu	2/2 Sat	2/5 Mon	2/6 Wed	2/8 Fri	2/9 Sat	2/12 Tue
Slyvette	V015	1/26 Sat	1/31 Thu	2/11 Mon	1/31 Thu	1/28 Mon	1/19 Sat	2/3 Sun	2/4 Mon	2/3 Sun	2/6 Wed	1/25 Fri	1/7 Mon	2/1 Fri	2/2 Sat	2/7 Thu	2/9 Sat	SKIP	2/13 Wed	2/15 Fri	2/16 Sat	2/19 Tue
Haneburg	V029	2/2 Sat	2/7 Thu	2/18 Mon	2/7 Thu	2/4 Mon	1/26 Sat	2/10 Sun	2/11 Mon	2/10 Sun	2/13 Wed	2/1 Fri	1/14 Mon	2/8 Fri	2/9 Sat	2/14 Thu	2/16 Sat	2/19 Tue	2/20 Wed	2/22 Fri	2/23 Sat	2/26 Tue
Stadt Hamburg	V012	2/9 Sat	2/14 Thu	2/25 Mon	2/14 Thu	2/11 Mon	2/2 Sat	2/17 Sun	2/18 Mon	2/17 Sun	2/20 Wed	2/8 Fri	1/21 Mon	2/15 Fri	2/16 Sat	2/21 Thu	2/23 Sat	SKIP	2/27 Wed	2/29 Fri	3/1 Sat	3/4 Tue
Slyvette	V016	2/16 Sat	2/21 Thu	3/3 Mon	2/21 Thu	2/18 Mon	2/9 Sat	2/24 Sun	2/25 Mon	2/24 Sun	2/27 Wed	2/15 Fri	1/28 Mon	2/22 Fri	2/23 Sat	2/28 Thu	3/1 Sat	3/4 Tue	3/5 Wed	3/7 Fri	3/8 Sat	3/11 Tue
Haneburg	V030	2/23 Sat	2/28 Thu	3/10 Mon	2/28 Thu	2/25 Mon	2/16 Sat	3/2 Sun	3/3 Mon	3/1 Sun	3/5 Wed	2/22 Fri	2/4 Mon	2/29 Fri	3/1 Sat	3/6 Thu	3/8 Sat	SKIP	3/12 Wed	3/14 Fri	3/15 Sat	3/18 Tue

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Guam-based vessels get 'Battle E' awards

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
editor@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Two military vessels homeported in Guam have been awarded the 2007 Battle Efficiency Awards.

The submarine USS *Houston* (SSN 713) and submarine tender USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) were among the winners of the 2007 Battle Efficiency Awards (Battle "E") for the Pacific Fleet Submarine Force, according to a news release by the U.S. Navy.

Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet commander, Rear Adm. Joe Walsh, announced the winners on Jan. 1.

The Battle "E" award recognizes sustained superior performance in all areas of combat readiness. As part of the competition, ships compete for command excellence in four combat areas, to include: maritime warfare, engineering/survivability, command and control and logistics management. To receive the nod for battle efficiency, a ship must excel in all four areas.

ON THE NET
www.news.navy.mil/local/subpac/

Three Pearl Harbor based nuclear-powered attack submarines were also selected for the award, including USS *Cheyenne* (SSN 773), from Submarine Squadron 7. The USS *Los Angeles* (SSN 688) and USS *Key West* (SSN 722) from Submarine Squadron's 1 and 3 were the other Pearl Harbor-based winners this year.

According to Walsh, the competition for this year's awards was extremely tough.

"Each crew member of an award winner can be justifiably proud of their contribution to improve Pacific Submarine Force Readiness," Walsh said. "I am extremely proud of your outstanding performance."

Other Pacific Fleet ships and submarines receiving the Battle "E" included: USS *Topeka* (SSN 754), the floating dry dock *Arco* (ARDM 5) and torpedo retriever *Porpoise* (TWR 823) homeported in San Diego; USS *Jimmy Carter* (SSN 23), USS *Maine* (SSBN 741) and USS *Louisiana* (SSBN 743) homeported in Bangor, Wash.

Terminated Tinian worker sues ex-employer

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
delatorreferdie@yahoo.com
REPORTER

A Tinian resident who was acquitted on charges of sexually assaulting a co-employee has filed a lawsuit against his former employer for terminating him.

Ryanjay T. Dela Cruz sued Rome Research Corp. for breach of contract and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

Dela Cruz, through counsel Joey P. San Nicolas, asked the Superior Court to order Rome Research to pay him damages, interest, attorney's fees, and court costs.

San Nicolas stated in the complaint that Rome Research hired the plaintiff as a technician on June 29, 2004.

On Aug. 30, 2005, police arrested Dela Cruz for allegedly sexually assaulting a fellow technician.

San Nicolas said the jury subsequently found his client not guilty of the allegations.

The lawyer said that, in September 2005, Rome Research conducted an "investigation" on the matter without allowing Dela Cruz an opportunity to defend himself. He said Rome Research failed to give plaintiff an opportunity to present a defense to the allegations.

In October 2005, San Nicolas said, Dela Cruz was informed that he was suspended indefinitely from his work at Rome Research.

San Nicolas said that, on Dec. 21, 2005, Dela Cruz received notice he was terminated from his job at Rome Research for allegedly committing workplace harassment.

The lawyer asserted that Rome Research breached the employee contract with Dela Cruz because it did not fully investigate the facts of the alleged misconduct prior to his termination and he was not given an opportunity to present his side of the story.

"As a direct and proximate result of defendant's conduct, plaintiff has suffered damages, including, but not limited to mental anguish, loss of income, liquidated damages, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees," San Nicolas said.

According to court records, the Attorney General's Office alleged that Dela Cruz sexually assaulted the victim in four different occasions between September 2004 to Aug. 23, 2005.

In June 2006, the jury found Dela Cruz not guilty.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Northern Marianas College faculty, administrators, staff and students gather inside the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort as they listen to Guam Community College Academic vice president Dr. Ray Somera during the college's PROAC/SLOCIP Assessment Training Wednesday.

NMC undergoes daylong assessment training

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam Community College vice president Dr. Ray Somera conducted a daylong assessment training for the faculty and staff of the Northern Marianas College yesterday at the Saipan World Resort.

Close to a hundred NMC staff, faculty, and students from CNMI attended the training.

The assessment training was intended to equip NMC faculty and staff on an appropriate assessment model to continuously improve the overall quality of NMC's educational programs.

Another point of the assessment, Somera said, was to see what NMC's strengths are and what their gaps are.

Somera cited the two basic factors that are key to an assessment: accountability and improvement.

"At this time, NMC is very young in its assessment life. They're only in data collection. They don't have the complete results yet to see if what they're doing is effective or not," Somera said.

However, Somera said he has seen NMC's confidential report and it is "very, very positive."

"Zeal and enthusiasm is evident within the college. Question is, can they follow through with all the recommendations," Somera said.

"What we also want to see are the kind of activities being implemented in order to show whether or not programs in the college are effective or not," Somera said.

He added that the whole point of an assessment is to make sure students learn what they need to learn within the classroom in order to produce students that are skillful and productive in the workforce.

Somera said the assessment that was done in 2004 served as a one-shot deal. However, NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez wishes to have a more sustainable relationship with GCC.

Somera added that an assessment should never be punitive.

"Finger-pointing or assigning blame should never be a part of a result of assessment," said the GCC vice president.

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Director, P&S

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Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
January 9, 2008

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS ACTING CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING TODAY AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Roll Call
II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
1. October 12, 2007
2. November 21, 2007
IV. BANK GUARANTY MATTERS
V. OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO
VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Acting Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

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NOTICE OF MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a regular meeting of the CPA Board of Directors will be held on Friday, January 11, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room at the Port of Saipan's Captain George F. Fleming Building, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (November 8 and 29, 2007)
II. EXECUTIVE SESSION
1. Legal Counsel's Report
2. Personnel Matters
III. CORRESPONDENCES
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee
V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
VI. OLD BUSINESS
1. Revenue enhancement and cost cutting program
2. Freedom Air's Maintenance Operation
3. Change & Update of Personnel Rules and Regulations
4. Change & Update of Procurement Rules and Regulations
5. Reorganization of departments and divisions
6. Requests by the Board of Directors
VI. NEW BUSINESS
7. SIA Brown Tree Snake Barrier Installation Award
8. SIA Security Access Upgrade Award
9. SIA Apron Phase III Change Order No. 1
10. Tinian Harbor Emergency Repairs Change Order No. 3 approval
11. Tinian Harbor Emergency Repairs CM Extension Amendment No. 1
12. Saipan Harbor Refrigerated Outlets Hookup Change Order No. 4 (time extension only)
13. SIA Loading Bridges Award of Contract
14. SIA Baggage Handling System Preventive Maintenance Proposal
VIII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
IX. PUBLIC COMMENT
X. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ REX I. PALACIOS, Chairman, Board of Directors January 8, 2008

Drinking session ends in domestic violence

A woman sustained a three-inch long laceration on the forehead when her allegedly intoxicated husband pushed her to a concrete wall at their house in Tanapag Sunday night.

The victim also had bruises and swollen lips and was transported to the Commonwealth Health Center, police said.

Glenn Taman Rios, 31, was arrested at midnight on Monday for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama imposed a $1,500 cash bail for the defendant's temporary liberty.

Preliminary hearing was set for Jan. 17.

Detective Elias Q. Saralu stated in his report that, according to the victim she was with Rios Sunday evening outside her sister-in-law's house in Tanapag.

The victim had asked her husband that they go home already because she could see that he was already drunk. Rios allegedly got mad and threw a can of beer at her when she started walking away. The victim was hit in the back, but she continued walking. She proceeded to her husband's uncle's house where she asked them to call the police for her.

The victim then went to their house and Rios followed her. As she was walking to the front door to get out, the defendant allegedly pushed her from behind.

The victim fell forward, hitting her face against the concrete wall behind the door.

While the victim was still on the floor, police knocked on the door. The victim opened the door with blood dripping from her forehead.

Police placed Rios under arrest at 12:58am Monday.

In other police report, the Attorney General's Office has filed separate charging information against two men for allegedly selling crystal methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Vicente Q. Falig was charged with two counts of trafficking of a controlled substance and two counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance.

The AGO alleged that Falig delivered "ice" on Aug. 23 and 24, 2007.

Greg Twelbang Magofna was charged with two counts of trafficking of a controlled substance and two counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance.

The prosecution alleged that Magofna delivered "ice" on Oct. 30 and Dec. 1, 2007. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Canadian-made, meth-laced Ecstasy being dumped into US drug markets

WASHINGTON, DC—The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy is warning public health and safety leaders across the country about a dangerous new drug threat coming from Canada. Ecstasy laced with methamphetamine (meth) has been entering the United States illegal drug markets, particularly in northern border states. Intelligence reports indicate that once smuggled into the U.S., the meth-laced Ecstasy is then being distributed throughout the country.

The dangerous poly-drug combination of methamphetamine and Ecstasy can have severe health consequences, especially as both drugs have toxic effects on the brain. They both can interfere with the body's ability to regulate temperature, leading to sharp increases in body temperature (hyperthermia), which can result in liver, kidney, and cardiovascular system failure and death. The potential for a life-threatening or fatal overdose is also increased when meth-laced Ecstasy is combined with alcohol. Recent laboratory research suggests that Ecstasy and meth combinations may produce greater adverse neurochemical and behavioral effects than either drug alone.

John Walters, the nation's drug czar, said, "This 'Extreme Ecstasy' is a disturbing development in what has been one of the most significant international achievements against the illicit drug trade. Historic progress against Ecstasy availability and use is in jeopardy of being rolled back by Canadian criminal organizations. Desperate to develop their client base, they are dangerously altering a product for which demand by youth and young adults had plummeted, and are exploiting vulnerabilities along our shared border. This is alarming for the youth of both Canada and the United States."

Ecstasy use in the United States rose in the late 1990s with the rise of the 'Rave' culture, however due to the well-coordinated national and international response - Ecstasy use in the U.S. diminished in the early 2000s. In fact, the U.S. witnessed a 54 percent reduction since 2001 in the number of United States teens using Ecstasy in the past month, however recent data show progress against the drug has ebbed. The number of people in the U.S. who reported that they tried Ecstasy for the first time during the past year increased 40 percent between 2005 and 2006 – from 615,000 to 860,000. One-third of these new users in 2006 were under age 18 when they started using Ecstasy. ***(PR)***

PAWS CORNER

PAWS seeks help finding four kittens

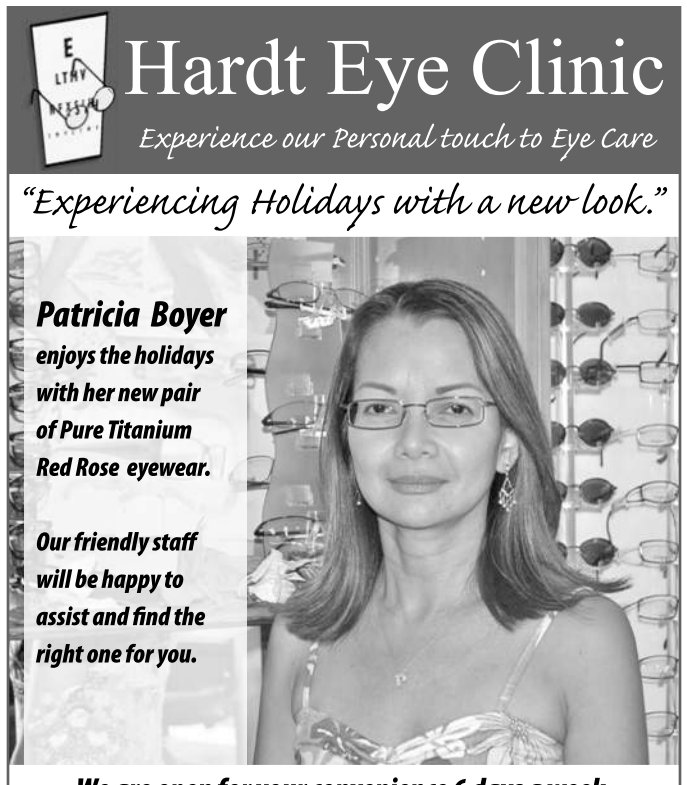
On Monday evening, PAWS received a call from someone who had just witnessed a man dumping four kittens in front of the DanDan Joeten's grocery store. The witness noted that the kittens had ribbons wrapped around their necks and appeared to be 4-5 weeks old.

Attempts were made to find the kittens, but none were found. It is the thought that the man who dumped the kittens may have moved the kittens to another location.

PAWS would like to find the kittens and place them in a foster or permanent home.

"We are asking for the community's help. If you work or shop in the DanDan Joeten Shopping Center, or just have some free time on your hands, we are asking for your help in looking for these kittens. We don't want them to crawl into the undercarriage of a car and die, or die of strangulation from the ribbons wrapped around their necks."

If you find one or more of the kittens, PAWS asks that you take the kitten to a safe holding place and call PAWS at 286-0970 or email Katie at busenkell@gmail.com. ***(PAWS)***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POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

RECEPTIONIST / COLLECTIONS ASSISTANT

The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, has a full-time position vacancy for a Receptionist / Collections Assistant. The successful candidate must be a US citizen or IR, be a high school graduate, and have good English language and bookkeeping skills. Duties will include greeting visitors to the Office, answering the telephone, assisting with the Firm's collections practice, and other related duties.
The salary is competitive.

Applications may be obtained at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe. Completed applications must be accompanied by a police clearance and proof of US citizenship or IR status. No telephone calls, please.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Department of Public Health
Women, Infants and Children Program
Navy Hill Bldg N-25

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On August 8, 2007 the Department of Public Health officially opened the Women, Infants and Children Program, better known as "WIC."

The WIC Program is 100% federally funded, and provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals for pregnant and new mothers, infants and children below the age of five (5).

The WIC Program's goals are to reduce nutrition related health problems, promote breastfeeding, prevent anemia, and help lower medical costs for low-income families in the CNMI.

WIC foods include iron-fortified infant formula and infant cereal, iron-fortified adult cereal, vitamin C-rich fruit or vegetable juice, eggs, milk, cheese, peanut butter, dried beans/peas, tuna fish and carrots. Special therapeutic infant formulas and medical foods may be provided when prescribed by a physician for a specified medical condition.

The Program would like to thank the community for it's patience during the initial phase of operation, and would like to assure the residents of Rota and Tinian that plans are underway to bring services to these respective islands. More information will be provided when the proposed opening dates are confirmed.

Eligible participants must meet income guidelines, CNMI residency requirements, and be determined to be "nutritionally at risk" by a health professional.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 236-8750/58 or visit the WIC Clinic in the CHC Dialysis Center, north entrance.

Pacific

New Solomons government halves appointees, salaries

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star)—Solomon Islands Prime Minister Derek Sikua's new Government has virtually halved the number of political appointees and slashed the salaries for those it will appoint.

Political appointees of the previous Sogavare Government cost taxpayers more than $430,500 a year in salaries alone.

Some of these political appointees were alleged to have been paid more than the permanent secretaries running ministries.

Chairman of the Sikua Government's caucus, Daniel Enele Kwanairara, said it has reduced the number of political appointees from 21 to 11.

"We will reduce their salaries," the Member of Parliament for North Malaita also said.

Kwanairara said the list is to be finalized this week. But they have already agreed to have only 11.

He said the major cutback is part of a commitment the new Government has made to save money.

Whilst the number of political appointees will be reduced significantly, Kwanairara has not revealed the government's plan for its Permanent Secretaries.

However, he said there will be some permanent secretaries appointed to implement special projects.

One will be at the Department of Finance to oversee rehabilitation work in the tsunami-hit provinces of Western and Choiseul.

On backbenchers, Kwanairara said most of them would be given chairmanship of State Owned Enterprises.

Government backbenchers include: Laurie Chan, Martin Sopage, Clay Forau, David Sitai, Bernard Ghiro, Trevor Olovae and Augustine Tenako, who has indicated his willingness to join the government.

Fiji chiefs say president should be Fijian

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—Political and traditional leaders in Fiji have rejected a proposal to have a non-indigenous President.

Ousted Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase said he supported the current constitutional requirement that the Great Council of Chiefs choose the President.

The current President, Ratu Josefa Iloilo, was chosen by the council when his predecessor, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, was asked to step down by the military in the aftermath of the 2000 civilian takeover.

Qarase said any change to the selection procedure would require wide consultation because it would involve constitutional amendments.

"It is a sensitive issue and involves ethnic and racial questions and is not a decision that can be reached at off the cuff," he said.

Citizens Constitutional Forum director Reverend Akuila Yabaki said the time was right for Fiji to have a non-Fijian president.

However, Rewa chief, Ro Filipe Tuisawau said the position of President was reserved for an indigenous Fijian and selected by the Great Council of Chiefs as an acknowledgement of the care the chiefs of Fiji had rendered to all races in Fiji since the time of indenture and independence.

"The position of the president symbolizes unity of both traditional structures of leadership which existed before parliamentary rule was established and the current Westminster system of parliament," Ro Filipe said. "This is where the Western system meets our traditional 'vanua' system and we acknowledge the indigenous leadership that has evolved and catered for all races in our multi-cultural society. By nominating the President the nation is acknowledging the role our chiefs have played in society and I think the Fijian people would appreciate that the status quo stay."

DRAINAGE CLEANUP JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Friends of the Mariana Islands president Marites Castillo and volunteers gather for a photo after cleaning a large drainage area along Tun Joaquin Doi Street going down to Chalan Kanoa Sunday Morning for the Inshore Drainage Cleanup/Restoration Environmental Project funded by MOBIL Oil Mariana Islands Inc.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

6.2 quake causes fires, injures six in Papua

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—An earthquake in the Indonesian province of Papua has injured six people and triggered fires in a number of homes. The U.S. Geological Survey said the earthquake measured 6.2 [on the Richter scale] and was only 35 kilometers deep. It's epicenter was 8 kilometers north of the coastal town of Manokwari. The head of Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency's earthquake centre, Fauzi, said the shake is thought to have tipped over stoves or lights and caused the fires.

New Caledonia's oldest dies at 112

SUVA, Fiji (Oceania Flash/PIR)—New Caledonia's oldest woman and for that matter all-gender longevity record older, Marie-Louise Lhuillier, has died at the weekend aged 112, local media report said. The local figure died peacefully at her Nouméa residence on Friday evening, her family said. Lhuillier, who spent most of her professional life first as a French teacher, and later as a bank clerk, was born in Nouméa on 26th of June, 1895. She never married and never had children. The new officially oldest New Caledonia is also a woman, Marthe Page, who also born in Nouméa on a 9th of April, 1904 and is therefore nearing her 104th birthday.

Former PNG envoy sentenced for fraud in US

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National/PIR)—A former Charge d'Affair and acting ambassador for Papua New Guinea to the United States, Graham Michael, has been sentenced in the U.S. for fraud. Michael was sentenced in connection with his prior guilty plea to defrauding the embassy. Michael, 42, who now lives in Bunker Hill, West Virginia, appeared for sentencing last week in the U.S. district court before Judge John D. Bates, who sentenced him to five years of probation, with 250 hours of community service, and ordered him to make restitution to the embassy of US$70,052. Because Michael is not a citizen of the United States, his conviction may subject him to detention, deportation and other sanctions at the direction of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Fiji government seeks to revoke bail for 10 defendants

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—Fiji's Director of Public Prosecutions office has sought bail revocation for the 10 men accused of conspiring to kill interim Prime Minister and military commander Frank Bainimarama. A total of 16 suspects were arrested in early November 2007 in connection with an alleged plot to assassinate Bainimarama. The case was called before Justice Daniel Goundar in the High Court in Suva yesterday. DPP lawyer Asishna Prasad informed the court that the application for bail revocation was on the grounds that it involved national security issues and wanted an order from the court for the 10 to be remanded. Only one accused, former Fiji Intelligence Unit Director, Metuisela Mua was present in court.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JANUARY 9, 2001

700 workers duped in another savings scam

A busload of angry garment factory workers trooped to the Department of Public Safety yesterday to complain the owner of Long City Traders Corp. who allegedly ran away with hundreds of thousands of dollars they entrusted in exchange for "bigger'" interest rate. This is the second time in less than a month that a group of Chinese garment workers complained to DPS of being victimized by perpetrators of this savings scam. At least 45 workers earlier came forward to sue a couple who allegedly collected from them over $100,000 on promise that their investment will double in just two months. DPS said the suspect identified as Kwan Y. Chung, 53, one of the shareholders of Long City Traders, is now the subject of a police manhunt, but some sources believed the suspect has fled the island. Mr. Chung will be charged with theft by deception.

Teno shoots down 'shooting resort' bill

Amid concerns over safety of the islands to both residents and tourists, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday vetoed legislation seeking to ease tough gun control law in the CNMI to cater to so-called "shooting resorts" proposed by Korean investors. He said he could not compromise public safety over economic benefit of the measure despite assurances by proponents that use of these high-caliber weapons would be tightly guarded and restricted within the proposed resorts. "Although the bill was aimed at boosting our ailing economy, this is not the type of development supported by our private sector or by our citizens," the governor said in his veto message.

JANUARY 9, 2002

US money rained on NMI but impact study needed

Since 1979, the federal government has pumped in more than half-a-billion dollars-or $657.16 million-into the CNMI under the Covenant Section 702 program, yet the question remains whether the original goals of the funding program has been met. In line with this, Rep. William S. Torres will ask the General Accounting Office of the US Congress to conduct a study to see the extent of the impact the program may have had on the Commonwealth and to verify whether the original intent of the program has been achieved.

Adriano: Lift hiring ban but raise minimum wage

Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano says he will support the lifting of the moratorium on the hiring of nonresident workers, provided that certain conditions are met. Adriano, who will be the Senate Floor Leader in the 13th Legislature, said the ban on the hiring of new nonresident workers-Public Law 11-6-may be lifted on the condition that the CNMI minimum wage is raised to US mainland standards. "The minimum wage should be raised to somewhere around $4.10 to $4.25 per hour. In that way, we can attract our own people to go and work in the private sector," he said. Currently, the CNMI's minimum wage is pegged at $3.05.

JANUARY 9, 2003

Heinz: Payless paydays loom

Government paychecks and retirement pensions have a very distinct possibility of not reaching government workers and retirees in the near future if the move to cut government wages through work-hour reduction continues to be stalled. House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider made the forecast yesterday, still disappointed over the failure of the proposed Retirement Protection Act of 2003 to make it past the House of Representatives. The House majority voted Monday to thumb down House Bill 13-242 or the measure proposing to cut government work by an hour daily in order to save money for the payment of staggering retirement obligations and overdue tax rebates and refunds.

Abolish rebate, refund systems'

Faced with dwindling resources and undue delays in the release of rebate and refund checks, it would make better sense for the Legislature to just pass a law that would abolish the refunds and the rebates systems altogether. Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes stressed this, even as he pointed out that, with the CNMI government's dire fiscal straits being no secret, suing it to collect on the $92 million it owes the Fund would be an exercise in futility at this point in time. Reyes said that, by doing away with the rebate and refund system, the revenue the government acquires from income taxes could be used to settle some of its obligations.

Island Snapshots

ASSESSMENT TRAINING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Guam Community College Academic vice president Dr. Ray Somera facilitates the Northern Marianas College PROAC/SLOCIP Assessment Training at the Saipan World Resort Royal Taga Hall Wednesday.

'WEAR-A-MARCONI' JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Admaran International, Inc.'s Marconi Calindas and Adam Capege pose inside their new "Wear-A-Marconi" clothing line booth inside the DFS Galleria in Garapan.

VISITING SUBMARINE JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Military and Veterans Affairs executive officer Ruth Coleman, Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Kyle L. Calabrese, Marianas Visitors Authority, and Commonwealth Ports Authority representatives board the visiting USS *Jefferson City* (SSN-759) at the Port of Saipan to distribute flyers to its officers and crew. The submarine arrived on Saipan Saturday morning for a five-day rest and relaxation.

TRICARE BRIEFING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

TRICARE marketing representative Paula Shelton joins Family Readiness Group leader for E Company Det1 100th Battalion Rita Chargualaf during a TRICARE program briefing at the Professional Building at the Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico Saturday morning.

WINDSURFING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A windsurfer enjoys his afternoon on the clear blue waters of Micro Beach yesterday.

Visiting USS *Jefferson City* (SSN-759) crew secure the submarine upon arrival at the Port of Saipan Saturday morning.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

R&R BREAK
A tourist takes a rest after a long day of windsurfing on Micro Beach.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

ZONING TRAINING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Zoning Administrator Steve Tilley talks to developers and business owners during the Saipan Zoning Law educational workshop at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Tuesday morning. The law will be effective on Feb. 1, 2008.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 9

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The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Democracy delayed, again

Some autocratic governments claim they can't risk democratic elections because their leading opponents are religious extremists, separatists or irresponsible demagogues. Not so the rulers of Hong Kong. The typical opposition member of the city's legislature is a strait-laced lawyer in a three-piece suit; the most radical proposal of the opposition candidate for chief executive last year was the introduction of a minimum wage. The opposition has never proposed revising the terms under which Hong Kong reverted to Chinese sovereignty a decade ago—it's asked only that that "basic law," which called for the introduction of full democracy in the former British colony, be respected.

That's why it's inexcusable, as well as disappointing, that China's Communist leadership continues to deny Hong Kong its democratic rights. On Dec. 29 Beijing decreed that the next election for the executive, in 2012, would not be by universal suffrage. It said a direct vote could take place in 2017—but only if Beijing first approves the system to be devised for it, which it says should include the pre-approval of all candidates. Full democracy for the Hong Kong legislature, which currently chooses only half its seats by a popular vote, would be delayed until at least 2020.

Donald Tsang, Hong Kong's current chief executive, tried to make this bitter pill more palatable to his 7 million constituents by arguing that China had at least established a timetable for democracy, something it has previously refused to do. But only last month, Mr. Tsang, who was chosen by Beijing, delivered an official report acknowledging that a majority in Hong Kong favored the introduction of full democracy in 2012. And opposition leaders quickly pointed out that the supposed timetable is full of loopholes that would allow the decision on the 2017 election to be changed at any time.

In its essence, the timetable represents a decision by Chinese President Hu Jintao to postpone any significant step toward democracy in Hong Kong past the end of his own term in 2013. It will be up to Mr. Hu's successor to decide whether Hong Kong is permitted real democracy by the time of the 20th anniversary of mainland rule. Mr. Hu will be remembered as a leader who had the opportunity to pioneer democracy in Hong Kong under almost ideal economic and political conditions—and chose not to act. If future Hong Kong oppositionists are more aggressive and less considerate of Beijing, China's current leadership should get the blame.

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How to handle the doubts

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Dear Walt:

My question to you is how do you maintain your motivation and excitement when you encounter frustrating obstacles? How do you remove the doubt about whether this is the right direction on those mornings when you wake up and the first thought that jumps into your mind is "Am I crazy?"....if you know what I mean? There are several of us that are out on their own...and we all struggle with that issue.—Doubtful in Savannah

The truth, Dear Doubtful, is that there are no real doubts that I encounter, just minor detours and tests of my commitment. You see, I believe that every problem has a solution, every journey has a destination, and that the only way to find either is to keep looking. I believe that my destiny is not in the hands of anyone but me and my creator, so I never doubt that I can accomplish my goals.

I learned many years ago the power of commitment. I learned that it is possible and only necessary to commit once at the beginning of a journey. I learned that the obstacles are not my signal to question my commitment, but a chance to prove it.

Therefore, once I made the decision to walk away from my job and pursue my passion, the question became not "is this the right decision?", but "what do I need to make this happen?" In other words, I only ask "when?" not "if?"

The commitment was already made way at the beginning. The ups and downs are just part of the journey. I can't tell you why I believe this, or what series of events in my life conspired to give me this perspective, but I know that it is what keeps me going forward even through the setbacks, evictions, credit challenges, etc., and all that I went and still go through during my journey.

But, as a result of your question, I started asking myself, "What is it that makes me this way?"

Maybe it's because I got encouragement at an early age for my accomplishments and therefore don't believe that there's any test that I can't master if I try hard enough.

Maybe it's because I'm prepared to fall without shame (I gave up being controlled by m ego a long time ago. In fact, it's first thing that needs to go if you're serious about becoming free.)

Maybe it's because I'm a control freak who is fanatically driven to be in control of my life, and will settle for nothing less.

Maybe it's because I get physically sick if I have to work in an air-conditioned, corporate environment, and decided long ago that I wouldn't remain trapped in that world.

Maybe it's because I have a fear of mediocrity that won't allow me to settle for being an "also ran."

Maybe it's all these things, or none of them. I may never know the answer. What I DO know is that once I stepped out on my own, going back was never an option. Giving up my ultimate goal of freedom was not an option. Neither is giving up the desire to help others do the same.

Remember, any decision made in the direction of experiencing your greater self, your happiness, and the fulfillment of your purpose and passion are never "wrong." They are all learning experiences and pathways which move you towards your ultimate destination.

If you are truly moving in the direction of your happiness, then those are not pangs of doubt you feel, but merely reminders that you need to be more resolved and creative in bringing your happiness to fruition. It is not the path nor the obstacles which determine your soundness of your desire. The ultimate realization of your dream is something that is entirely up to you. You must believe that it's within your power to change the outcomes you've been creating, and give yourself something different.

How To Handle The Doubts

No doubt there'll be doubts
as you build your dreams, but
avoid second guessing
just measure and cut

Commit to the journey
do it once in advance
then always keep striving
leave nothing to chance

For roadblocks don't mean
that the journey has ended
and spirit that's broken
can always be mended

When obstacles come
don't lose faith in your goal
when the ride becomes bumpy
simply tighten your hold

Commitment to outcome
precedes all success
and once convinced of your goals
daily doubts become less!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Nuclear credulity

By CAROLYN LEDDY
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Paying off terrorists doesn't work; it only encourages more terrorism. The same is true with nuclear proliferators. They tend to take the bribe and hide the program, and the next thing you know, they're testing nuclear weapons. That was why so many nonproliferation experts welcomed the Bush administration's repudiation of the 1994 "agreed framework" with North Korea. It is also why, after nearly five years of working on nonproliferation issues in the Bush administration, I chose to leave government.

Dec. 31 was the deadline for North Korea to disable its Yongbyon nuclear facility and to provide a full declaration of all its nuclear programs and facilities. A muted news release from the State Department lamented the missed deadline as "unfortunate." White House statements were similarly tepid.

It's well known that most of the administration's nonproliferation experts were unhappy with the agreement reached with North Korea last February.Nonproliferation analysts and experts throughout the administration have been marginalized on national security issues for years. The nuclear agreement with India was negotiated largely absent senior participation from our ranks; the dialogue with allies regarding Iran's nuclear program has been conducted almost exclusively on a political level.

Given that history, few were surprised that the North Korea deal was reached so easily by political and regional officials. But we were assured that President Bush had a personal desire to seek, through the six-party process, an end to North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

To support the president, we labored to define nebulous terminology—"nuclear programs," say, and "disablement"—crafted by the negotiators. Nonproliferation experts and verification specialists endured accusations of disloyalty to the administration and of political and international naivete. Our expertise was faulted. Yet we continued to try to strengthen the hand dealt to the president by the State Department and to close the glaring loopholes in the agreement.

Ultimately, it became clear that honest assessments of intelligence on North Korea's nuclear program were not of interest to the administration's "regional specialists." They wanted a deal. They continue to keep the deal afloat even as North Korean intransigence continues.

Last fall the chief U.S. negotiator to the six-party talks, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, testified to Congress that disablement measures underway at the Yongbyon facility would "effectively end" North Korea's plutonium production capability by year's end and that its uranium enrichment program would cease to exist as well. Yet media reports indicate that disablement activities at Yongbyon have slowed to a crawl. In a statement Friday, North Korea professed to have already disclosed all nuclear programs.

Were this merely a matter of a missed deadline, it would hardly be cause for concern. And the deadline reportedly became part of the deal only at Bush's insistence—reiterated in his groundbreaking December letter to dictator Kim Jong Il.

Yet, perhaps anticipating the lapse, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said last month that she wasn't "too concerned about whether (the deadline) is December 31 or not."

This view is misguided. As with all things regarding North Korea, the devil is in the details. Deadlines matter. I took part in a U.S. delegation's trip to survey the Yongbyon nuclear facility in September. Afterward, it was clear that North Korean officials view all elements of the six-party agreement as negotiable. If the deadline can be overlooked, so can the "disablement" and the "disclosure." This is how the Clinton administration's agreed framework unraveled.

Declarations are key to arms control and nonproliferation. They are invaluable when judging the sincerity of the state in adhering to its commitments. Any credible declaration from a "nuclear weapons state" should include a thorough accounting of all its plutonium, uranium and weaponization programs. For each of these programs North Korea should be asked to include the specific amounts of nuclear materials; all associated equipment, facilities and components; the organizations and personnel involved; and records (hours of operation, periods of maintenance, etc.) from all associated facilities.

The rubber meets the road here not only for North Korea but also for Bush's legacy on one of the most pressing threats of our time. The president has already achieved several landmark nonproliferation successes, including the Proliferation Security Initiative and the disarmament of Libya. Ideally, his administration will attain the complete, irreversible and verifiable dismantlement of all aspects of North Korea's nuclear weapons program. At this point, though, I have my doubts.

Leddy covered North Korea's nuclear program as director for counterproliferation strategy on the National Security Council staff from July 2006 to November 2007.

Letters to the Editor

CUC gibberish?

The following quotes appeared in one of our newspapers on Jan. 8:

"She added that CUC incurred a big shortfall in December—a loss of $3 million—"due to the poor legislative action to cap rates below the world fuel price," referring to the enactment of P.L. 15-94 which reduced the power rate for residential customers to 17.6 cents per kwh."

"Residential customers are only paying the cost of fuel," Mathis said. "Not the cost of power generation, maintenance, high voltage lines, among other things. Residential customers are not paying for the real cost of the power they use and this is why CUC continues to have a huge cash-flow problem. CUC is in dire straits financially."

Correct me if I'm wrong, but was it not stated (by CUC) shortly after the passage of P.L. 15-94, that this law would result in a revenue shortfall of between $6.6 and $8.2 million dollars PER YEAR? Suddenly, we have a $3 million shortfall in only ONE MONTH and attributed solely to that same law?

I'll bet that second quote is news to many as it was to me. I was under the (apparently mistaken) idea that residential customers were being charged the exact amount needed to cover the cost of getting power to their homes under a much written about "formula" that was touted as being undecipherable by even the best minds. Now, suddenly, that "formula" is nothing more than the direct cost of fuel ONLY? Please explain to us who (or what) is making up for all the "other" cost of power.

And this one really gets me:

"The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. says it is now paying $119 for a barrel of the fuel it needs to run its power plants, but will continue to charge most of its residential customers the current power rate of 25.8 cents per kilowatt hour."

The phrase "most of its residential customers" implies that not ALL residential customers are paying the same rate. What gives? Is there more than one residential rate? Where's the authority for that?

And what about that fuel rate of $119? That's a 20-percent increase in one month! But CUC says it will continue to charge the current rate (25.8 cents). What kind of a "shortfall" will there be next month? Or will CUC suddenly spring a 40 percent increase so it can "recover" a previous "shortfall" AND keep up with current costs? That would result in a residential cost of over 37 cents per KwH!

And a story just two days prior quoted CUC as being able to generate ONLY 43 percent of capacity. It appears that the governor's now six-week-old "emergency" has only resulted in further deterioration of the facility, which roughly translates as "more sand down the rat hole."

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian

An open letter to the Legislature

This letter is an urgent plea to urge you to pass the PAWS Anti-Cruelty Bill, the Animal Protection Act of 2007.

My family has resided in the CMNI for over 30 years and has witnessed the cruelty that humans inflict upon the animals on Saipan. The refusal of our government to impose penalties to irresponsible and abusive pet owners is inconceivable.

We live in an area where neighbors tie their dogs up to short chains; others are kept in small cages with barely enough room to move around. These dogs are malnourished and neglected. Additionally, we have neighbors who continue to let their female dogs give birth to 5 or 6 puppies twice a year. These puppies are then left to fend for themselves, roaming our neighborhood, starving, looking for food. The feline population problem is equally as bad. In the last two years, we have personally trapped, treated, sterilized or humanly deposed of over 15 "unowned" animals. Helplessly we watch as these animals starve within our community. It is depressing to witness these abused, neglected animals as they become skin and bones and covered with mange. These are helpless creatures with nowhere to go. These negative images of abused and neglected animals affect our community's quality of life.

This is not a localized problem; this is an islandwide problem.

Our law enforcers are unable to do anything because our Legislature will not approve PAWS Anti-Cruelty Bill, the Animal Protection Act of 2007 without any loopholes. There must be a law for animal neglect and abuse that applies to all people, no matter what their culture or financial status.

Just think, by extending legal protection to animals and providing a shelter and the funding for the shelter, the Legislature will actually be helping the quality of life for humans and animals alike.

We urge you to please, look into your heart and to be moved to action. Please pass the PAWS version of the animal protection act and ensure that the people of Saipan use humane methods of animal control. Humans have an obligation to respect and protect animals.

Valerie Bufton
via e-mail

Give us a break!

Pamela Mathis should not use the pickup truck as an example to defend the high cost of CUC customer charges. The pickup truck can also be adorned with new mag wheels, nice leather seat covers, and a damn, loud boom box that shakes your heart out (even if you're not the car) and other fancy gadgets. Does that mean that I have to pay for those luxuries, too? CUC has pickup trucks for just about every Tom, Dick and Harry employee that works out on the field (so they claim!) and speed around the island like mavericks, wasting gas. The most entertaining part is when there is call for help. Every CUC truck is present where the problem is. Of these parked CUC vehicles, one guy is doing the work while the others watch. You got it—we are paying for this scenario, too! While CUC continues to waste our hard-earned money, Pamela still cries that we are not paying enough! How dare you to tell us that we should be paying more to offset your waste and luxury when sometimes we don't even have enough money to give our kids for their lunch at school? Has CUC considered stopping paying for high maintenance and rentals of their offices? Give us break—you can only squeeze so much out of us!

Florence S. Kirby
Papago Drive, Saipan

Driver education

Mr.Puhalla, out of curiosity, do you have a no pass/no pay policy at your academy? I think that parallel parking is the least of a Saipan driver's worries. I ride a scooter, and all too often I am tail gated in the left-hand lane while doing the speed limit. Maybe you could stress that the left-hand lane is not for speeding, but for passing a vehicle that is traveling below the posted limit in the right-hand lane. Or maybe you could stress the importance of reaching the posted limit as quickly as your vehicle allows when turning into traffic. A turn signal lesson would also be nice. Thank you in advance.

Paul Harsany
Garapan, Saipan

Congratulations!

I want to say congratulations to Lisa Sablan for being named the *Saipan Tribune*'s Small Business Person of the Year. She is an inspiration to other small businesses that, given the economic situation in the CNMI, one can still be successful. Auntie Lisa's biggest asset is that she always has a sweet hafa adai spirit no matter what challenges she may be facing. Auntie Lisa marches to the beat of her own drum and is always true to herself. She is certainly deserving of this award. Congratulations Auntie Lisa! We love you.

Marie Rios-Martinez
via e-mail

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼76

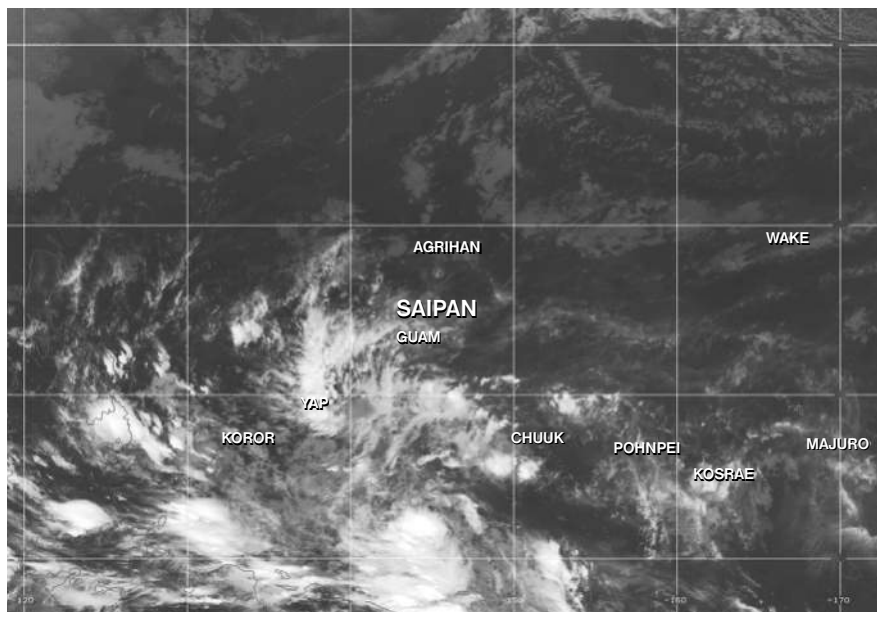
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼75
Palau	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲85	▼75
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Cloudy	▲83	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲78	▼68
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲41	▼21
Hong Kong	Showers	▲73	▼64
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼68
London	Cloudy	▲45	▼39
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲60	▼47
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲82	▼73
Melbourne	Sunny	▲91	▼77
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼67
New York	Rain	▲56	▼41
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲47	▼32
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲43	▼41
Pusan	Sunny	▲46	▼33
Rome	Cloudy	▲55	▼48
Salem	Showers	▲41	▼37
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲55	▼48
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲38	▼23
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲52	▼35
Washington, DC	Showers	▲62	▼37

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JAN. 8, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends eastward from 12N130E to near Guam at 13N144E to 14N166E to 21N180. Cloudiness and patchy light rain are found along and up to 75 miles northwest of this boundary. Another shear line extends eastward from near 14N133E to 20N150E to 17N160E to 19N170E to 23N180. Cloudiness and patchy light rain are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough stretches east-southeastward from 5N130E to 4N140E through a weak circulation centered at 3N145E to end at EQ153E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between 11N and the equator from 130E to 151E. This area includes Koror and Yap. Trade-wind convergence over Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro is generating scattered showers between 4N and 9N from 158E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
02:17AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
09:29AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
02:43PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
07:21PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45AM	6:02PM
Thursday	6:46AM	6:03PM
Friday	6:46AM	6:03PM
Saturday	6:46AM	6:04PM
Sunday	6:46AM	6:05PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	07:15AM	06:42PM
Thursday	08:00AM	07:38PM
Friday	08:43AM	08:32PM
Saturday	09:23AM	09:25PM
Sunday	10:01AM	10:18PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 25, 2007

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	1,2,4,5,6,7
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:30am	11:10am	Daily

Guam-Nagoya

CO 971	7:45am	10:30am	1,2,4,5,6,7
NW 023	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO 904	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:30am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Guam-Narita

JO 982	4:15am	7:00am	Daily
CO 961	7:20am	9:55am	Daily
CO 006	1:00pm	3:45pm	Daily
JO 942	3:30pm	6:15pm	Daily
NW 081	3:55pm	6:50pm	Daily
NW 073	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO 963	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:15pm	1,2,3,5,6,7

Guam-Hongkong

CO 910	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

ARRIVALS

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,4,5,6,7
CO 9316	3:30am	4:20am	2
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	10:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
OZ 607	6:50pm	2:50am+1	3,7 via Busan
OZ 607	7:30pm	2:50am+1	4 via Busan

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily

Nagoya-Guam

NW 024	10:00am	2:40pm	Daily
CO 970	11:30am	4:00pm	Daily
CO 905	8:25pm	12:50am+1	1,3,4,5,6,7

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Narita-Guam

JO 941	9:30am	2:05pm	Daily
NW 074	9:45am	2:25pm	Daily
CO 962	11:05am	3:35pm	Daily
CO 007	5:15pm	9:50pm	Daily
NW 082	8:30pm	1:15am+1	Daily
CO 964	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
JO 981	9:30pm	2:05am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:20pm	1,2,3,5,6,7

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
6,210.80
Down 29.60
(-0.47%)

HONG KONG
27,413.73
Up 234.24
(+0.86%)

JAKARTA
2,798.28
Up 21.87
(+0.79%)

TOKYO
14,516.89
Up 16.34
(+0.11%)

K. LUMPUR
1,470.77
Up 4.10
(+0.28%)

MANILA
3,420.56
Up 31.75
(+0.94%)

SINGAPORE
3,365.31
Up 12.25
(+0.37%)

SEOUL
1,831.90
Up 0.76
(+0.04%)

BANGKOK
591.38
Up 5.01
(+0.85%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,827.49
+0.21

NASDAQ
2,499.46
-5.19

S&P
1,416.18
+4.55

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1387
British Pound	0.5071
Canadian Dollar	1.0025
Chinese Renmbi	7.2745
Euro	0.6799
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8034
Indian Rupee	39.272
Indonesian Rupiah	9452.5
Japanese Yen	109.26
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2735
New Zealand Dollar	1.2959
Philippine Peso	40.82
Singapore Dollar	1.4332
South Korean Won	938.6
Swiss Franc	1.1176
Taiwan Dollar	32.427
Thailand Baht	32.463

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Continental adds Korea, Taiwan charter flights

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—In response to market demand, Continental Micronesia will operate charter services to Incheon, South Korea and Taipei, Taiwan this winter. Saipan and Guam can expect thousands of visitors on their shores in the next several weeks.

Eleven charters will operate to Taiwan beginning Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008 through Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008. Twenty-five charter flights to Guam from Incheon, South Korea will operate from Tuesday, Jan. 15 through Sunday, March 2, 2008.

Five charter flights to Saipan from Incheon will operate from Saturday Feb. 16, 2008 through Sunday, March 2, 2008. Flying time from Guam will be approximately 4.5 hours.

"As Continental Micronesia begins its 40th year of operations, we're proud to provide these charters as it demonstrates our commitment to the region," said Continental Micronesia president and chief executive officer Mark Erwin.

Continental Micronesia is headquartered in Guam and operates a Pacific hub from the A.B. Won Pat International Airport. For more company information, visit continental.com. ***(Continental)***

Paulson: No easy answer to US mortgage problems

WASHINGTON (AP) —The Bush administration is working to combat the country's severe housing crisis but there is no simple solution, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said Monday, adding that a correction in the housing market is "inevitable and necessary."

Paulson

Paulson said the country was facing an unprecedented wave of 1.8 million subprime mortgages that are scheduled to reset to sharply higher rates over the next two years. He said this raised the threat of a market failure and was the reason the administration brokered a deal with the mortgage industry to freeze certain subprime mortgage rates for five years to allow the housing market to recover.

"By preventing avoidable foreclosures, we will safeguard neighborhoods and communities and fulfill our responsibility of protecting the broader U.S. economy," Paulson said in a speech in New York. "However, let me be clear: there is no single or simple solution that will undo the excesses of the last few years."

Paulson said that the deal the administration brokered with the industry to freeze certain subprime mortgage rates for five years did not involve the use of any taxpayer money. Conservative critics have complained that the administration's plan represented government intrusion in the operation of markets that would end up rewarding some people who had taken out risky mortgages.

In his speech, Paulson raised the possibility that some sort of "systematic approach" may need to be developed to help homeowners with other types of adjustable-rate mortgages that are resetting to higher rates. The current plan only involves subprime mortgages, loans offered to borrowers with weak credit histories.

The steep slump in housing has been a serious drag on the overall economy. There are rising fears that the country could topple into a recession. Those worries were heightened after a report Friday showing that the unemployment rate jumped to a two-year high of 5 percent in December with job growth slowing to a crawl.

Paulson called the current housing correction inevitable after what occurred during the five-year boom in which sales and prices climbed to record levels.

"After years of unsustainable price appreciation and lax lending practices, a housing correction is inevitable and necessary," Paulson said.

He said that the correction was taking a toll on the economy that would continue for a period of months.

"It will take additional time for markets to regain confidence," Paulson said. "The overhang of unsold homes will contribute to a prolonged adjustment and poses by far the biggest downside risk."

Oil futures fall on economic concerns

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil futures fell sharply Monday, extending their retreat from $100 as investors sold on concerns that a cooling economy will curb demand for oil and gasoline.

Comments by Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson Monday suggesting there is no simple fix for the nation's housing crisis added to worries about the economy raised by last Friday's Labor Department jobs report; the government's data showed that employers added far fewer jobs last month than expected.

A stronger dollar Monday also weighed on oil prices. Crude futures offer a hedge against a falling dollar, and oil futures bought and sold in dollars are more attractive to foreign investors when the greenback is falling. Many analysts believe the weakening dollar helped draw speculative investors into oil markets this fall and winter, driving oil prices above $100 a barrel last week.

At the pump, meanwhile, gas prices rose 0.2 cent overnight to a national average of $3.106 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Gas prices have been on the rise for weeks, following oil's jump back into record territory. But with oil prices now sliding, the gains at the pump are likely to be limited, analysts say

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, Jan. 7, 2008. AP

Stocks end up mixed in shaky trading

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street ended an erratic session mixed Monday as investors grew more confident that the Federal Reserve will lower interest rates again to ward off recession and as they also wrestled with worries about the upcoming earnings season.

"It's a directionless market with very little for investors to sink their teeth into," said Jack A. Ablin, chief investment officer at Harris Private Bank, of Monday's trading. He noted that the Standard & Poor's 500 stocks still appear overvalued right now ahead of a fourth-quarter earnings season that most investors are pessimistic about.

"The puzzle pieces are not aligning for the stock market right now," Ablin said.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 27.31, or 0.21 percent, to 12,827.49, after moving in and out of positive territory throughout the session.

Broader stock indicators ended mixed. The S&P 500 index rose 4.55, or 0.32 percent, to 1,416.18, and the tech-focused Nasdaq composite index fell 5.19, or 0.21 percent, to 2,499.46.

It was seventh straight session of losses for the Nasdaq, which greatly outperformed the Dow and the S&P in 2007.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Starbucks replaces CEO with chairman

SEATTLE (AP)—Starbucks Corp. fired Chief Executive Jim Donald on Monday, handing the reins back to Chairman Howard Schultz as part of a major restructuring initiative aimed at pulling the company out of a downward slide. The move, coupled with plans to close some U.S. stores and slow down opening new ones, comes as the world's largest chain of coffee houses has seen its stock plummet 50 percent over the last year amid declining traffic in its domestic stores. Starbucks said the leadership shuffle is part of a series of other initiatives include closing U.S. stores that aren't performing well, introducing new products and store designs, and improving training for baristas.

WSJ: Bear CEO expected to step down

NEW YORK (AP)—Bear Stearns Chief Executive James Cayne is resigning under pressure from shareholders upset over the firm's losses amid a slew of problems sparked by the collapse of mortgage markets, The Wall Street Journal reported Monday. Cayne was expected to be replaced by Bear Stearns President Alan Schwartz, a 57-year-old investment banker respected for his dealmaking savvy. Cayne started notifying Bear Stearns' board on Sunday that he plans to give up his post but remain as chairman, the Journal reported on its Web Site, citing unnamed people familiar with the matter. Cayne, 73, had been under scrutiny since the summer, as the liquidity crisis pushed scores of mortgage lenders out of business, bled more than $100 billion from Wall Street's books, and coaxed the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates by a full percentage point.

Sallie Mae names Terracciano chairman

WASHINGTON (AP)—Battered in recent months because of a failed buyout and higher borrowing costs, shares of Sallie Mae jumped Monday after the company named a banking industry turnaround specialist as its new chairman. Sallie Mae's new chairman is Anthony P. Terracciano, who has been known as "Tony the Tiger" for his experience advising troubled banks and working on sales of some of them. The 68-year-old previously has served as president of First Union Corp., now Wachovia Corp., chairman and CEO of First Fidelity Bank Corp., president and chief operating officer of Mellon Bank, vice chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank, and non-executive chairman of both The Dime Bank and Riggs National Corp. Former Sallie Mae Chairman Albert L. Lord, who held that title for three weeks, has been appointed vice chairman and will remain CEO.

Nation

Clinton struggles to catch Obama in NH

By DAVID ESPO
and PHILIP ELLIOTT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire (AP)—Her voice briefly breaking, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton struggled to avoid a highly damaging second straight defeat in the Democratic U.S. presidential race. Close together in the polls, Republicans John McCain and Mitt Romney fought for success on the eve of a first-in-the-U.S. New Hampshire primary that neither could afford to lose.

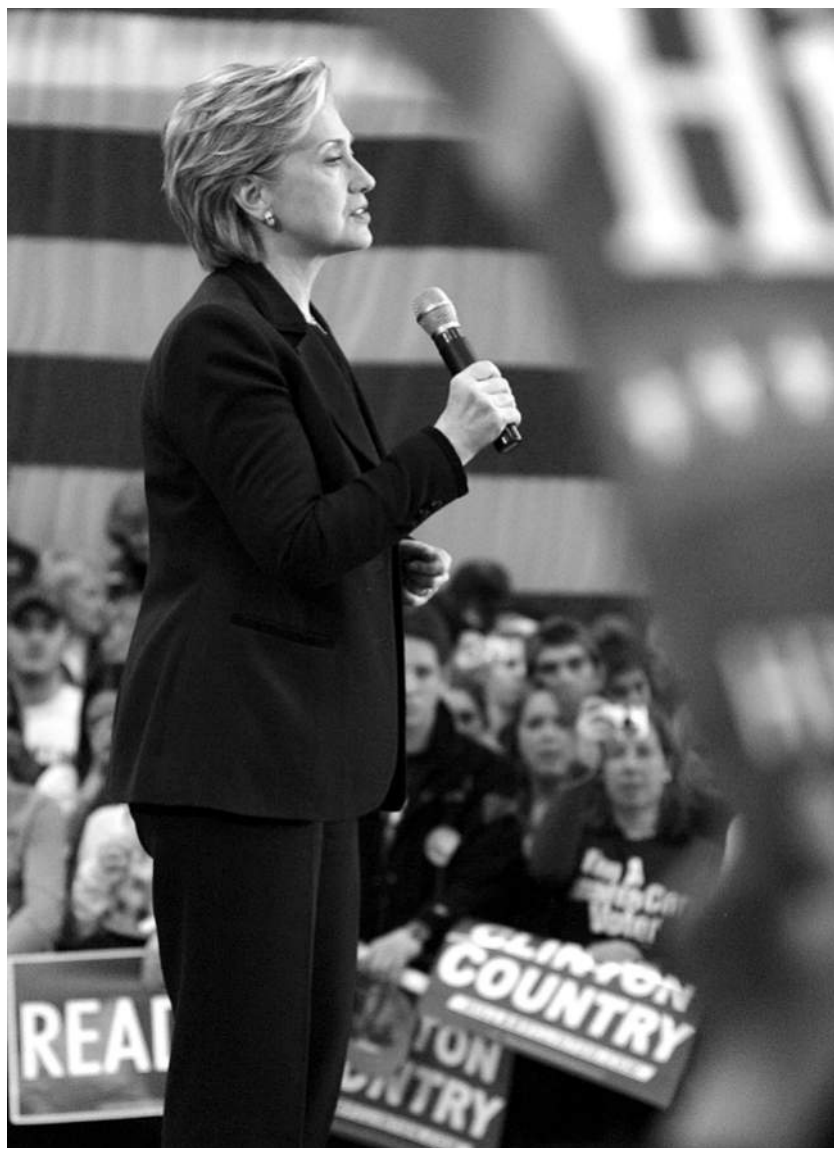
Sen. Barack Obama, the new Democratic front-runner who wants to be the first black U.S. president, has been drawing large, boisterous crowds since he won the Iowa caucuses last week, and a number of pre-primary polls showed him moving to a lead in in the small northeastern state of New Hampshire as well.

"You're the wave, and I'm riding it," Obama told New Hampshire voters Monday.

Wins in these early contests are crucial in building momentum as candidates compete state-by-state for delegates to this summer's party conventions, where one candidate from each party will be named to move on toward the November national election.

Clinton runs second in the New Hampshire surveys, with former Senator John Edwards third, and the former first lady and her aides seemed to be bracing for another setback.

At one stop, she appeared to struggle with her emotions when asked how she copes with the grind of the campaign—but her words still had bite. "Some of us are ready and some of us are not," she said in remarks aimed at Obama, less than four years removed from the state Legislature in Illinois.



AP
Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y. speaks at a campaign event in Dover, N.H. Monday, Jan. 7, 2008.

Opinion polls made the Republican race a close one between McCain, the senator seeking to rebound from last summer's near campaign collapse, and Romney, the former governor from next-door Massachusetts.

After fighting over top issues of taxes and immigration in weekend debates with McCain and former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, Romney cast himself as the Republican best able to hold the White House. "I think Barack Obama would be able to do to John McCain exactly what he was able to do to the other senators who were running on the other side," he said as he sped his way through a half-dozen events on a final full day of campaigning.

After first declining to predict victory in a state where he had led in surveys for months, Romney exuded confidence by the end of the day. "I'm convinced we're going to win tomorrow," he boasted at a rally for his staff at the campaign's headquarters. He attributed the change of heart to 100,000 telephone calls made by his staff, and his performance in back-to-back nationally televised debates on Saturday and Sunday.

McCain was not nearly as reluctant. "We're not gonna lose here," he predicted as he set out on a packed day of campaigning. He accused Romney of negative campaigning and said voters would reject it. "I don't care how many attack ads you buy on television," he said.

Romney has run several TV commercials against McCain in New Hampshire, arguing that the senator's immigration plan would offer amnesty for illegal immigrants and painting him as a disloyal Republican for twice opposing President George W. Bush's tax cuts. McCain responded with an ad that includes a quote from the influential local newspaper, The Concord Monitor, that suggested Romney was a phony.

Obama won his Iowa victory on a promise of bringing change to Washington, trumping Clinton's stress on experience. She has struggled to find her footing in the days since, at the same time insisting she is in the race to stay.

Clinton's aides have urged her to show more passion and emotion—including laughter—to give voters a sense of her warmer side.

She did so as she set out on a final day in New Hampshire.

"You know, I had so many opportunities from this country. I just don't want to see us fall backwards," she said at a morning campaign stop, her tone changing and voice quavering.

"You know, this is very personal for me. It's not just political. It's not just public. I see what's happening. And we have to reverse it."

Clinton later told Fox News Channel that male politicians get emotional, too.

Violent crime on the decline, FBI shows

WASHINGTON (AP)—Crime dipped slightly for the first half of 2007, the FBI reported Monday, signaling a stop to a 2-year increase in violence nationwide.

Violent crime—including murders, rapes and robberies—dropped by 1.8 percent between January and June last year, the FBI's preliminary data show. Property crimes also decreased, including a 7.4 percent drop in car thefts and arsons by nearly 10 percent.

But violent crime appears to be rising, if slightly, in small cities and rural areas, the data show.

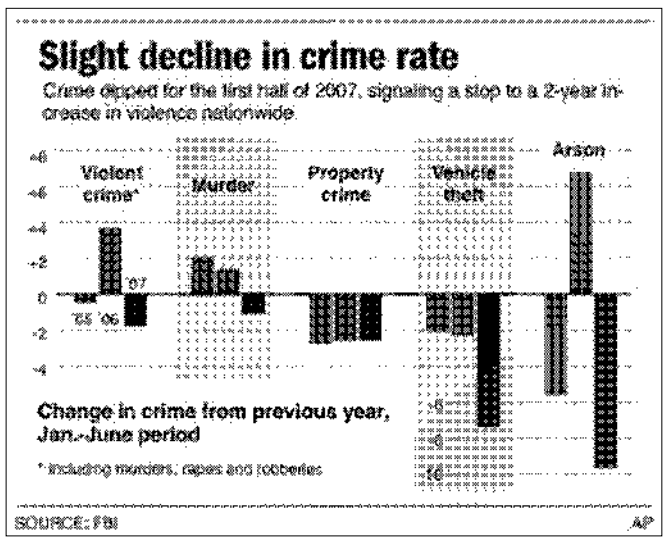
The FBI data, compiled from local and state police departments around the nation, offer a snapshot of crime rates over the six month period. The numbers will not be finalized until later this year.

Still, the data appears to end two years of rising violent crime rates, which increased by 2.3 percent in 2005 and 1.9 percent in 2006.

"The latest numbers from the FBI are encouraging," Justice Department spokesman Peter Carr said. "The report suggests that violent crime remains near historic low levels."

The data show that violent crime dropped dramatically in big cities with 1 million or more residents, where murders decreased by 6.5 percent and rapes by 14 percent.

Smaller cities and rural areas, however, saw a 1.1 percent increase in violence. And murder rates jumped by 5 percent in suburbs and by 3.2 percent in cities with between 50,000 and 100,000 residents, the FBI reported.



Midwest tornadoes kill 1, hurt many

MARSHFIELD, Mo. (AP)—A rare January outbreak of tornadoes raked the Midwest on Monday, flattening houses in several states and killing at least one person in Missouri.

In Illinois, about 500 people fled their homes after a reported tornado knocked over rail cars carrying hazardous materials.

A woman was killed in Missouri when a tornado threw her from her mobile home, and at least six people were taken to hospitals by ambulance, said Michael Taylor, fire chief in Marshfield in the southwestern part of the state.

Two other people were in critical condition, said Ed Gray, a spokesman for Missouri's emergency management agency.

Storms continued to pummel the nation's midsection into as darkness fell on a day when record temperatures were reported across much of the country. Tornadoes were also reported in Arkansas and Oklahoma and along the Illinois-Wisconsin border.

About six homes were destroyed in the small town of Poplar Grove, Ill., where authorities rescued motorists trapped by downed, live electrical lines and crews searched damaged structures to make sure no one was trapped. Three people suffered minor injuries, Boone County Sheriff's Lt. Perry Gay said.

About 15 miles away in Harvard, Ill., another reported tornado knocked six rail cars off their tracks.

ACROSS THE NATION

6 missing snowmobilers alive in Colorado

CONEJOS, Colo. (AP)—Six snowmobilers missing in the mountains for 2 1/2 days while a howling blizzard swirled around them were rescued Monday - hungry and cold but unhurt - after taking shelter in a cozy cabin and calling 911 on a cell phone when the storm eased up. The group, consisting of two couples and two teenagers, broke into the cabin, where they huddled around a gas grill and dined on popcorn and chicken bouillon they found inside. Groen and the others were trapped by one in a series of storms that killed at least three people across the West.

9 killed in Utah charter bus crash

MEXICAN HAT, Utah (AP)—A ninth person died Monday after a new bus carrying skiers home from a Colorado resort plunged off a damp, twisting highway in southeastern Utah and landed 41 feet below with its tires ripped away and the roof destroyed. Those killed included two high school students from Glendale, Ariz. About 20 other people from the Phoenix area were injured Sunday night, some seriously, authorities and hospital officials said. The ninth victim, a woman, died at Saint Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colo.

Marines examine Afghan civilian deaths

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (AP)—The Marine Corps launched a rare tribunal Monday to publicly investigate disputed allegations that a special forces unit killed as many as 19 Afghan civilians after the military convoy was rammed by a car bomb. The court of inquiry, an administrative proceeding last used by the Marine Corps more than 50 years ago, will focus on the actions of Maj. Fred C. Galvin, commander of the 120-person unit, and platoon leader Capt. Vincent J. Noble. The officers were members of a Marine special operations company that opened fire March 4 along a crowded roadway in Nangahar province after an explosives-rigged minivan crashed into their convoy. No Marines were killed and only one was wounded.

Body of missing Georgia hiker is found

BLAIRSVILLE, Ga. (AP)—Authorities found the body of a missing hiker Monday, hours after a judge denied bond to the man accused of kidnapping her in the mountains of northern Georgia. Investigators were also examining whether the death and the disappearance of two elderly hikers in October in North Carolina were related. A source close to the investigation said the remains of 24-year-old Meredith Emerson had been found. The disclosure came after authorities scheduled a "major announcement" in the case in Dawson County, south of where Gary Michael Hilton, 61, appeared in court.

Asia

South Korean building blaze kills 40 workers

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A fire and explosions ripped through a nearly completed cold storage warehouse south of Seoul on Monday, killing 40 workers. Most of the victims were so badly burned they could not immediately be identified.

All the dead were discovered in the warehouse basement, where workers were injecting urethane foam into the walls when the fire broke out, said Kim Jung-geun, a local fire official in Icheon about 50 miles south of the capital. The cause of the fire was still unclear but arson was not suspected, Kim said. He said the explosions were caused by the fire.

Police worked Tuesday to determine the cause of the blaze, questioning officials from more than 10 companies which subcontracted at the site, said Jung Ha-gil, a detective working on the case. He did not give further details, citing the ongoing investigation.

Ten people were injured, Kim said. Another seven people escaped the burning building.

A doctor at Bestian Medical Center in Seoul, which specializes in burn treatment, said four of the injured were in intensive care with burns to more than 40 percent of their bodies. Only one of the dead had been positively identified because most were so badly burned it made identification difficult, Kim said.

The fire was extinguished late Monday night by more than 500 firefighters.

Cable news channel YTN showed black-clad firefighters battling thick smoke, some of it spewing from underground.

Among the dead were 12 ethnic Koreans with Chinese nationality, a spokesman for Chinese Embassy in Seoul said on condition of anonymity, citing policy.

China has a sizable ethnic Korean minority and in recent years, some have migrated to South Korea to seek work. Like other foreign migrants, they often end up working in factories or doing difficult and low-paying work that affluent South Koreans shun.

Indonesia's Suharto's health worsens

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Former Indonesian dictator Suharto's health appeared to be worsening Tuesday, with signs of internal bleeding and fluid building up in his lungs, the chief presidential doctor said.

The 86-year-old was suffering from anemia, a dangerously low heart rate and swollen internal organs when he was admitted to Pertamina Hospital in critical condition Friday. He responded well to a blood transfusion and dialysis treatment, but on Tuesday, Suharto's condition deteriorated, Dr. Subiandono told a press conference.

"Traces of blood were found in his urine and feces," a sign of internal bleeding, he said. "Excess liquid in his lungs is also increasing," and could lead to respiratory problems.

Suharto has been accused of overseeing a brutal purge of more than half a million left-wing opponents at the outset of his 32-year reign. Though he has also faced charges of embezzling state funds, he has evaded prosecution.

Since his ouster by a pro-democracy uprising in 1998, Suharto has lived a secluded life on a leafy lane in the capital, Jakarta, rarely venturing from his mansion.

As an army general, he seized power in a 1965 coup and over the following three decades hundreds of thousands of perceived communists and separatist sympathizers were murdered or imprisoned across this vast island nation of 235 million people. No one has ever been punished for the crimes.

Sri Lanka clashes kill 81

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Gunbattles between government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels brought the death toll for four days of fighting to 81, according to military figures Monday, as violence intensified following the government's announcement that it would formally withdraw from a 2002 cease-fire accord.

Senior government officials have vowed to dismantle the rebels' de facto state in parts of the north. In the latest fighting, army troops Monday morning attacked and destroyed three rebel bunkers in the village of Muhamalai in the northern Jaffna peninsula, killing seven insurgents, said a defense ministry official.

Soldiers did not suffer casualties, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Separate gunbattles along the front lines Sunday in the northern district of Vavuniya killed 12 insurgents, the official said, adding that those clashes left one soldier dead and eight others wounded.

RP: Rebels lost 1,400 fighters last year

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Communist guerrillas lost about 1,400 fighters in battles and surrenders last year, bringing them to their weakest level in 20 years, the military said Monday.

The communist New People's Army guerrillas, now numbering 5,760, also lost 367 firearms and 202 village strongholds in the government's counterinsurgency campaign last year—but they are still the country's most serious security threat, said military spokesman Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro.

Army commanders at a security conference were briefing President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on the 120,000-strong military's advances against communist insurgents, and against al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants in the south.

In one of Asia's longest-running insurgencies, the communist rebels have been waging a rural-based insurrection for a Marxist-led state for 39 years. They withdrew from peace talks in 2004 after accusing Arroyo's government of instigating their inclusion on U.S. and European Union terrorist lists.

Arroyo has ordered the military to neutralize the insurgency by 2010, when her term ends.

At the conference, military and defense officials asked the government for about 3,000 more soldiers, as well as 2,400 more militiamen and additional funding to bolster its counterinsurgency operations.

Military spokesman Bacarro said they revived a proposal for a national identification card system to more easily identify insurgents, especially in remote villages.

Arroyo ordered the military "to accelerate the momentum," Bacarro said. The president reiterated, however, that troops should uphold human rights while pursuing insurgents.

"The death of any Filipino just because he expressed his politics is a violation of human rights," Arroyo said.

Her government's counterinsurgency campaign has come under fire from human rights advocates, including a U.N. rights investigator who accused the military last year of systematically hunting left-wing activists.

SOLAR-POWERED CAR AP

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, center, applauds as a Philippine-made solar-powered car named "Sinag" pulls over in front of the Presidential Palace in Manila for a demonstration Monday Jan.7, 2008. The Sinag, made by engineering students and faculty of De La Salle University in Manila, is the Philippines' first entry to the 3,000-kilometer World Solar Challenge in Australia in October of last year and landed 11th place overall among 41 international teams.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China to launch rockets in Olympic year

BEIJING (AP)—China plans to launch its third manned space mission that will feature its first-ever space walk during 2008, state media said Tuesday. China will also send up 15 rockets and 17 satellites, Huang Qiang, secretary general of the Commission of Science Technology and Industry for National Defense, was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency. He described Shenzhou 7, which will carry three astronauts into space, as a priority for this year. Huang was also quoted as saying that nearly 30 new technologies would be used during the Olympics. In 2003, China became only the third country in the world after the United States and Russia to send a human into orbit.

Wife of ousted Thai PM Thaksin returns

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—The wife of ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was handed an arrest warrant after she returned to Thailand on Tuesday to face corruption charges that could put her behind bars for 20 years, police said. Police presented Pojamarn Shinawatra with the warrant at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi International Airport and asked her to sign it, said police Maj. Gen. Thaweesak Toochinda. "We are asking her to double-check the document to insure that she is the same person for which the court has issued the arrest warrant and then will take her right to the court," Thaweesak said.

Tribesmen killed in northwest Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Eight tribesmen allied with the government against al-Qaida-linked foreign fighters were killed in northwest Pakistan, authorities said Monday. No one took responsibility for the attacks in the South Waziristan region. But those killed were loyal to pro-government tribal leader Maulvi Nazir, a rival of local Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud. The government has accused Mehsud of involvement in the assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, as well as a string of other attacks. The army said the eight were killed when militants fired rocket in two separate attacks Sunday night on offices of Nazir's supporters.

Afghan bomb kills coalition soldier

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A roadside bomb killed a soldier from the U.S.-led coalition in eastern Afghanistan on Monday, and a suicide bomber on a motorcycle attacked a border police patrol in the south, killing a policeman, officials said. Clashes and another roadside bomb left nine people dead elsewhere. In the eastern blast, two other U.S.-led coalition soldiers were wounded when the roadside bomb hit their vehicle in Kot district of Nangarhar province, the coalition said in a statement. The troops were responding to a call from the local police who had discovered another explosive device nearby, when the second bomb exploded, the statement said.

World

Pentagon says ships harassed by Iran

WASHINGTON (AP)—An Iranian fleet of high-speed boats charged at and threatened to blow up a three-ship U.S. Navy convoy passing near Iranian waters, then vanished as the American ship commanders were preparing to open fire, the top U.S. Navy commander in the area said Monday. No shots were fired an an Iranian official in Tehran said the incident amounted to "something normal."

Bush administration officials complained that the Iranian actions amounted to a dangerous provocation, but one private analyst said the Iranians may have believed they were acting defensively in a narrow waterway that is heavily trafficked by commercial ships, including oil vessels.

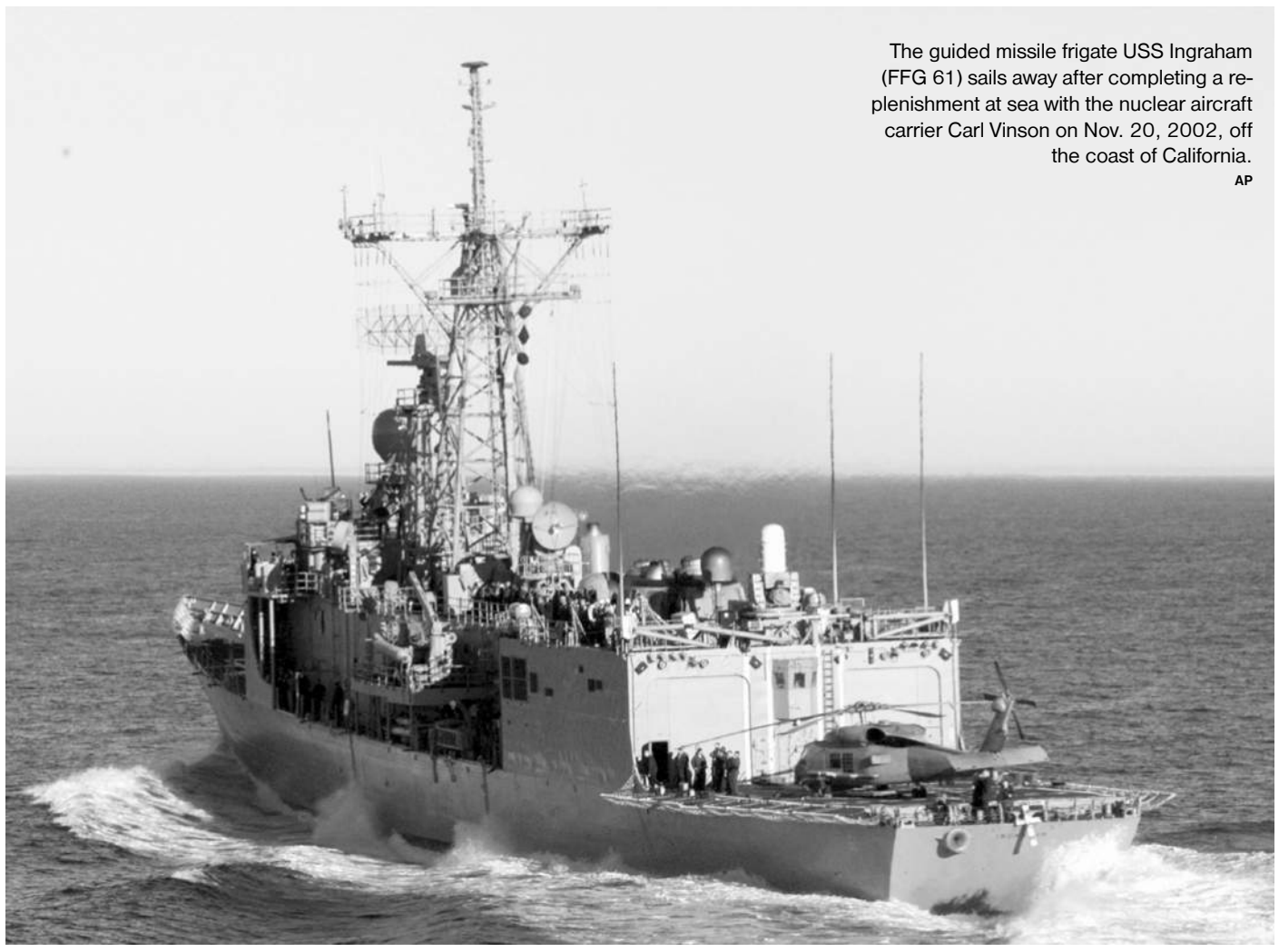
The incident raised new tensions between Washington and Tehran as President Bush prepared to depart Tuesday on his first major trip to the Middle East.

The three U.S. warships—cruiser USS *Port Royal*, destroyer USS *Hopper* and frigate USS *Ingraham*—were headed into the Persian Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz on what the U.S. Navy called a routine passage inside international waters when they were approached by five small high-speed vessels believed to be from Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy.

The Iranians "maneuvered aggressively" in the direction of the U.S. ships, said Vice Adm. Kevin Cosgriff, the commander of U.S. 5th Fleet, which patrols the Gulf and is based at nearby Bahrain. The U.S. ship commanders took a series of steps toward firing on the boats, which approached to within 500 yards, but the Iranians suddenly fled back toward their shore, Cosgriff said.

Cosgriff was not precise about the U.S. ships' location but indicated they were about three miles outside Iran's territorial waters, which extend 12 miles from its shores, headed in a westerly direction after having passed the narrowest point in the strait.

At one point the U.S. ships received a threatening radio call from the Iranians, "to the effect that they were closing (on) our ships and that the ships would explode—the U.S. ships would explode," Cosgriff said.



The guided missile frigate USS Ingraham (FFG 61) sails away after completing a replenishment at sea with the nuclear aircraft carrier Carl Vinson on Nov. 20, 2002, off the coast of California.
AP

Baghdad bombings kill al-Qaida opponent

BAGHDAD (AP)—The head of a key U.S.-backed Sunni group was killed Monday in a double suicide bombing that claimed at least 11 other lives and highlighted the deadly precision of attacks on Sunni leaders choosing to oppose al-Qaida in Iraq.

The main target—a former police colonel who led resistance to al-Qaida in one of its former Baghdad strongholds—was first embraced by a bomber posing as a friend. Seconds later, the attacker stepped back and triggered an explosion, a witness said.

A suicide car bomber then struck as rescuers tried to evacuate the wounded. At least 28 people were injured in the twin blasts—the latest in a spate of attacks against Sunnis who have joined a U.S.-supported movement against extremists and credited with helping sharply reduce violence around Iraq.

But the mounting al-Qaida backlash has stoked worries of a wider showdown brewing as extremists try to reclaim havens and intimidate the so-called "Awakening Councils" opposing them. In an audiotape released Dec. 29, Osama bin Laden warned that Sunni Arabs who join the groups will "suffer in life and in the afterlife."

Kenyan rivals make concessions

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Kenya's president and his chief rival made key concessions Monday to end their election dispute, calling off protests and agreeing to talks under pressure from the United States as the death toll from a week of violence neared 500.

The top American envoy to Africa said the vote count at the heart of the dispute was tampered with and both sides could have been involved.

The Dec. 27 election returned President Mwai Kibaki to power for another five-year term, with his rabble-rousing opponent, Raila Odinga, coming in a close second. But even Kenyan electoral commission chairman Samuel Kivuiti, who declared Kibaki the winner, subsequently said he is not sure Kibaki won.

"Yes, there was rigging," the U.S. envoy, Jendayi Frazer, told The Associated Press in an interview in Nairobi, where she has been meeting with Kibaki and Odinga for the past three days. "I mean there were problems with the vote counting process," she added. "Both the parties could have rigged."

She said she did not want to blame either Kibaki or Odinga.

Kenya is crucial to the United States' war on terrorism. It has turned over dozens of people to the U.S. and Ethiopia as suspected terrorists, allows American forces to operate from Kenyan bases and conducts joint exercises with U.S. troops in the region.

The U.S. also is a major donor to Kenya, long seen as a stable democracy in a region that includes war-ravaged Somalia and Sudan. Aid amounts to roughly $1 billion a year, said embassy spokesman T.J. Dowling.

War crimes trial opens with grisly video

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—The war crimes trial of Charles Taylor, Liberia's former president, heard its first testimony Monday and saw video of victims telling of being sexually assaulted or dismembered by rebels who plundered West African diamond fields.

The trial before the international tribunal in this Dutch city resumed following a six-month break, having been adjourned in June after Taylor boycotted proceedings and fired his lawyer.

Taylor

Back in court, Taylor looked confident and blew a kiss to supporters in the gallery as his new lawyers challenged the prosecution to prove that he was behind the widespread murder, rape and amputations during Sierra Leone's civil war.

Prosecutors allege the so-called "blood diamonds" mined in Sierra Leone were smuggled through neighboring Liberia and that Taylor used the profits to arm the rebels. Taylor, 59, is accused of orchestrating the violence from his presidential palace in Liberia's capital, Monrovia. He has pleaded innocent to all 11 charges.

WORLD BRIEFS

UN atomic chief to visit Iran

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—The chief U.N. nuclear inspector is heading to Iran this week, a visit that will overlap with a Middle East tour by President Bush. Diplomats, meanwhile, said Tehran has begun sharing information about past programs the U.S. says were attempts to make nuclear weapons. As head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei has spearheaded years of efforts to press Iran for full disclosure of its nuclear activities. Announcing his trip Monday, ElBaradei spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said he would be in Tehran on Friday and Saturday "with a view of resolving all remaining outstanding issues and enabling the agency to provide assurance about Iran's past and present activities."

Iran high on Bush Mideast trip

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Iran is the one issue where President Bush and Arab leaders have shared concerns. Ahead of the president's Mideast trip, Arab nations are eager to contain growing Iranian power, though they're wary of doing so militarily. Arab countries, particularly those in the Gulf region, are worried the long standoff between Iran and the U.S. could escalate into military action—and that they could get caught in the crossfire and their vital oil exports could be disrupted. Arab nations also worry about Iran's increasing influence around the region, particularly in Iraq and Lebanon. Sunni Muslim countries like Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states fear Iran will dominate Iraq in coming years through its influence on the country's Shiite politicians, particularly if U.S. troops withdraw. So they want to ensure the position of Iraq's Sunni Arab minority.

Georgia leader: Country on right track

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—President Mikhail Saakashvili said Monday there were "an amazingly low number" of violations in a weekend election that returned him to office, while the opposition cited widespread fraud and vowed to take the outcome to the courts and even the streets. The close U.S. ally won 51.94 percent of Saturday's vote - narrowly clearing the 50 percent threshold for a first-round victory, the Central Elections Commission said Monday with more than 85 percent of precincts counted. His main challenger, Levan Gachechiladze, got 25.19 percent. In an interview with The Associated Press, Saakashvili acknowledged Georgia's path had not been smooth but said the election demonstrated that the former Soviet republic was on the road to becoming a European democracy.

UN's Ban considers Algeria bomb probe

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon hinted Monday at an independent probe of last month's twin suicide truck bombings that killed 17 U.N. staffers in Algeria. Ban also said that the United Nations had no advance word of the attack, responding to reports of warnings beforehand. Ban acknowledged the potential need for an outside investigation in the wake of a 2003 report that found U.N. security systems "dysfunctional" and the unmet concerns of a U.N. security officer, Babacar Ndiaye, who had sought to have concrete barriers erected to limit vehicles' access to the United Nations offices in Algeria. Ndiaye died in the Dec. 11 attacks.

Campus Life

Opening up the university to everyone, via the Web

By SUSAN KINZIE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

As the technology evolves, online classes are becoming far more engaging to a broader public. With better, faster technology such as video, what once was bare-bones and hard-core–lecture notes aimed at grad students and colleagues–is now more ambitious and far more accessible.

WASHINGTON—Berkeley's on YouTube. American University's hoping to get on iTunes. George Mason University professors have created an online research tool, a virtual filing cabinet for scholars. And with a few clicks on Yale's Web site, anyone can watch one of the school's most popular philosophy professors sitting cross-legged on his desk, talking about death.

Studying on YouTube won't get you a college degree, but many universities are using technology to offer online classes and open up archives. Sure, some schools have been charging for distance-learning classes for a long time, but this is different: These classes are free. At a time when many top schools are expensive and difficult to get into, some say it's a return to the broader mission of higher education: to offer knowledge to everyone.

And tens of millions are reaching for it.

For schools, the courses can bring benefits, luring applicants, spreading the university's name, impressing donors, keeping alumni engaged. Virginia Tech, for example, offers some online classes free to its graduates.

As the technology evolves, the classes are becoming far more engaging to a broader public. (Think a class on "Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Solutions Using R and Bioconductor" sounds a little dry? Try reading the lecture notes, alone, on a computer screen.) With better, faster technology such as video, what once was bare-bones and hard-core—lecture notes aimed at grad students and colleagues—is now more ambitious and far more accessible.

With video, you can watch Shelly Kagan, the well-known Yale philosopher, asking students about existence and what makes someone's life worthwhile.

"If death is the end, is death bad?"

The focus is sharp enough to see the sticks of chalk at the blackboard, the laces on his Converse All-Stars. You can watch his black eyebrows fly up and down as he makes points. You can see which books are on the syllabus and get the assignments online.

Just don't ask him to grade the papers.

Some professors try this on their own, on a small scale. Schools are feeling their way, experimenting with different technologies; some use Utah State University's eduCommons on the Web; some post to free sites such as YouTube and the Apple university site iTunes U. Other schools have plunged right in: MIT has 1,800 classes online, virtually the entire curriculum free and open to all.

"The idea was to have a broad impact on education worldwide and make a statement at a time when many schools were launching for-profit distance-learning ventures," Steve Carson of MIT OpenCourseWare said, "trying to redefine the role of the institution in the digital age."

MIT is working with more than 150 other colleges and universities interested in open classes, Carson said, and more than 5,000 classes are online at an international site.

Less than a week into Yale's video launch of seven introductory courses, Kagan had gotten enthusiastic, inquisitive e-mail messages from people who had watched his classes. He had started to wonder whether it was just the first sign of a deluge of armchair philosophers trying to reach him.

It is, after all, out there. For anyone.

About 35 million people have tried MIT's online courses, Carson said. The biggest surprise has been that almost half who use the site aren't students or teachers but people just curious to learn.

"Wow now I can go to an Ivy League college ... for free," someone wrote in the comments section of one of Berkeley's YouTube videos.

"UC Berkeley isn't Ivy League," someone else wrote, but whatever. There it is on YouTube, the third lecture of Chemistry 3B, Electronic Spectroscopy, just as it was taught at Berkeley.

The first lecture of Berkeley's Physics 10, on atoms and heat, was watched almost 115,000 times in its first four months online.

The second lecture has been reached only about 8,100 times.

And people have watched Beaker from the Muppets singing (or beeping?) "Feelings" more than 2 million times over the past year and a half.

Still.

MIT gets e-mail messages all the time from such people as Kunle Adejumo, a student in Nigeria. He would print out pages from a metallurgical engineering class online and bring them to his classmates to supplement what they were learning. They kept asking for more. Finally he downloaded the entire course, printed it and brought it in. The class burst into applause.

Johns Hopkins professors have posted lecture notes from public health courses on their Web site, available to anyone. George Mason's open online research tool and archive Zotero aims to get scholars around the world to share their research. At American, "the university is still trying to figure out, like any university, its way in a technologically and legally changed environment," said Patrick Thaddeus Jackson, director of general education.

VISITING KOREAN STUDENTS

Eleven students from the Catholic Archdiocese of Busan, South Korea, are spending the month of January at Mount Carmel School to practice and improve their English language skills and forge relationships with students at Mount Carmel. After their first day at Mount Carmel, the group, their priests, and Mount Carmel School's principal, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, paid a courtesy visit to Bishop Tomas A. Camacho. The 11 students are staying with host families from the Korean Catholic community who have children enrolled at the school.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Tinian Jr./Sr. High start of classes

Tinian Jr. Sr. High School will open for Spring 2008 semester Jan. 10, 2008. There will be no homeroom and warning bell is at 7:55am, tardy bell at 8am. Class schedules may be picked up on Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008 from 8am to 4:30pm at the front office.

Report cards may be picked up anytime during normal working hours. ***(PR)***

MHS calendar of events

Jan. 10: Classes resume

Jan. 16: Report Card Distribution/Open House 4pm-6pm (Please pick up report cards from Homeroom Teachers) MHS Campus (Students will be released at 1pm)

Jan. 21: Martin Luther King Day (no classes)

For questions and concerns contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '83 meeting

The 25th year reunion of the Marianas High School's Class of '83 is just a few months away and we would like to remind those of you who have not purchased event tickets to do so now without delay. Our March 2008 deadline is fast approaching.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008, 7pm, at Ms. Frances (Mildred) Cruz's residence in Buenas Noches Street, DanDan Area. Please come and join us as we finalize plans for our reunion.

Contact any of the Steering Committee Members for details.

Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665
Viola Kaipan at 483-0214
Ed Camacho at 483-5262
Jane Tudela at 234-9571
Frances Mildred Cruz at 483-0995
Ester Teregeyo at 285-6284
Ben Sablan at 287-1480
Diego Songsong at 287-4300

Kagman High School reminder

Kagman High School students' parents are reminded that report card day is Jan. 11, 2008. ***(PR)***

WSR Elementary January events

Jan. 9 Parent Advisory Council meeting, 5:30pm, WSR Library

Jan. 10: 3rd Quarter begins (everyone reports back to school)

Jan. 10-11: NJHS Selection begins

Jan. 12: Saturday Reading Program, 8am to 10am/10am to 12pm (breakfast and lunch provided)

Jan. 14: Flag ceremony (sponsored by 5th grade students), 8am

Jan. 16: PTSA Meeting, 6pm, WSR cafeteria

Jan. 18: 2nd Quarter Awards Ceremony

Jan. 19: Saturday Reading Program, 8am to 10am/10am to 12pm (breakfast and lunch provided)

Jan. 21: Martin Luther King Day (no classes)

Jan. 22: STUCO meeting, 2:30pm, Room D-5

Jan. 23: Nov/Dec/Jan Diners Club (2nd and 3rd grade in charge), Pizza Night fundraising

Jan. 26: NJHS Induction Ceremony (details TBA later)

Saturday Reading Program, 8am to 10am/10am to 12pm (breakfast and lunch provided)

Jan. 29: Spelling Bee finals, 2:30pm, WSR cafeteria

Jan. 30: Half-day (Teacher Professional Development Day

The WSR Library will be open from 9am to 4pm from Jan. 2 to Jan. 9. Students and parents are encouraged to come to the library and borrow books and use the resources. ***(PR)***

Life & Style

AP

Daniel Battsek, president of Miramax Films, accepts the award for best picture for "No Country for Old Men" at the 13th annual Critics' Choice Awards on Monday, Jan. 7, 2008 in Santa Monica, Calif. Battsek is surrounded by members of the Broadcast Film Critics Association.

Critics choose 'No Country for Old Men'

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—"No Country for Old Men" was the big winner at Monday's Critics' Choice Awards, winning best picture, best director for brothers Joel and Ethan Coen and best supporting actor for Javier Bardem.

Bardem accepted for the absent Coens, saying, "I'm the third brother, the Spanish one."

Awards came in pairs for three other films: "Hairspray," "Juno" and "There Will Be Blood."

The cast of "Hairspray" was named best acting ensemble and its breakout star, Nikki Blonsky, won best young actress.

The 19-year-old thanked "my mommy who's sitting here crying and my other mommy who's at home, John Travolta." Travolta famously cross-dressed to play Edna Turnblad.

The teen-pregnancy film "Juno" collected trophies for best comedy and for screenwriter Diablo Cody.

"There Will Be Blood" earned the best actor honor for star Daniel Day-Lewis, and composer Jonny Greenwood won best composer for his haunting score of the film.

The Writers Guild of America strike, which began Nov. 5, has effectively shut down Hollywood and cast a pall over Tinseltown's awards season. But the Critics' Choice Awards, presented by the Broadcast Film Critics Association at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium and broadcast live on VH1, wasn't covered by guild contracts.

Julie Christie won best actress for "Away From Her," but she wasn't on hand to accept her prize. Also absent was best young actor Ahmad Khan Mahmoodzada, star of "The Kite Runner," and supporting actress Amy Ryan, who co-starred opposite Casey Affleck in "Gone Baby Gone."

AP

Nikki Blonsky accepts the award for best young actress for Hairspray at the 13th annual Critics' Choice Awards on Monday, Jan. 7, 2008 in Santa Monica, Calif.

Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova, who won best song for their work in "Once," also skipped the ceremony.

The cooking comedy "Ratatouille" won best animated film. Writer-director Brad Bird said before the ceremony that winning wasn't just for him.

"I look at it as a win for all the people who worked on the film. It was a film that was long in gestation," he said. "Animation is coming more and more to the forefront and it's great because people see that it's not an obscure art form, it's something accessible and fun."

"Enchanted" won best family film, "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee" was best made-for-TV movie and "Sicko" was best documentary feature.

The critics chose "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" as the best foreign film. Director Julian Schnabel was humbled by his win. Asked backstage how he felt, Schnabel said, "a little drunk and pleasantly surprised."

George Clooney, a nominee for his starring turn in "Michael Clayton," presented the inaugural Joel Siegel Award to Don Cheadle for his humanitarian work.

Before introducing his friend, Clooney noted the impact of the Hollywood writers' strike on the city.

"This is a one-industry town and when a strike happens it's not just writers or actors, it's restaurants and hotels and agencies," he said. "And our hope is that all of the players involved will lock themselves in a room and not come out until they finish."

Cheadle also acknowledged the strike, saying it kept him from writing an acceptance speech.

The Broadcast Film Critics Association, which represents more than 200 TV, radio and online critics from the United States and Canada, founded the Critics' Choice Awards in 1995.

"Into the Wild," written and directed by Sean Penn, had a leading seven nominations but didn't win any.

Globes try to save the show with new format

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Golden Globes, the ceremony known for getting Hollywood's awards season off to a rollicking start, will be reduced to a news conference Sunday by the writers strike and will likely draw picket lines and lack star power.

Despite the revamped ceremony announced Monday by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the Screen Actors Guild said it was encouraging its members to skip the show in support of the two-month walkout by the Writers Guild of America.

"The WGA informed us they will picket the event on Sunday," the actors guild said in a statement.

Patric M. Verrone, president of the Writers Guild of America West, said union leaders were uncertain if they still would picket outside the Golden Globes since they were unclear about what form the awards announcement would take.

"I would say an awards show in news conference clothing would still be picketed, but I just don't know if it's been definitively decided," Verrone said.

As he arrived at Monday's Critics' Choice Awards, George Clooney said he belongs to six unions and would not cross any picket lines.

Later, as he made a presentation, Clooney said, "Our hope is that all of the players involved will lock themselves in a room and not come out until they finish. We want this to be done."

Nikki Blonsky, also on the red carpet, said she was undecided about whether to attend the revised Golden Globes, where she is a nominee for "Hairspray."

"The writers are the backbone of the business, so we don't want to lose them in any way," she said.

The press association, which owns the Globes, issued a bleak statement about the ceremony that was to have showcased the likes of nominees Angelina Jolie and Denzel Washington.

"We are all very disappointed that our traditional awards ceremony will not take place this year and that millions of viewers worldwide will be deprived of seeing many of their favorite stars celebrating 2007's outstanding achievements in motion pictures and television," association president Jorge Camara said.

"We take some comfort, however, in knowing that this year's Golden Globe Award recipients will be announced on the date originally scheduled," he said in a statement.

Besides Jolie and Washington, this year's nominees include such other A-listers as Clooney, Tom Hanks, Daniel Day-Lewis, Keira Knightley, Cate Blanchett and Johnny Depp. Among the nominated films are "There Will Be Blood," "American Gangster" and "Sweeney Todd." But faced with a potential celebrity vacuum because of the picket line, the association and NBC Universal Chief Executive Jeff Zucker had to devise another approach for the Globes broadcast.

AP

Celebrities line the red carpet as they arrive for the 64th Annual Golden Globe Awards in this Jan. 2007 file photo, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

I F E & S T Y L E

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approach can be helpful under the right circumstances, Spears is in perhaps too fragile an emotional state for it.

"It looks as though the Camacho havior has been unraveling for some time now. Frankly, it's reached a point of being pretty frightening," she said.

"People may have thought it was entertaining or funny, but really it's a cry for help, and I hope people around her will respond and get her the help she needs," Albright said.

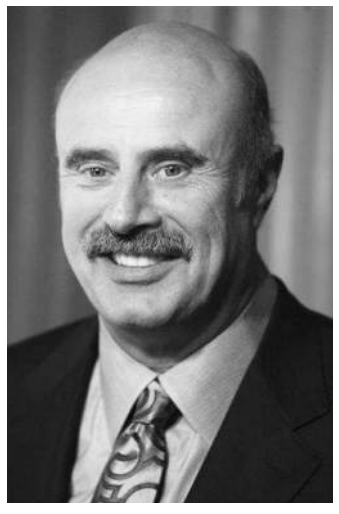
Also, Albright said, the tough love therapy that McGraw practices is really only the first of many steps therapists must take to change destructive behavior. What's more, she said, it really only works when the recipient is receptive.

"It's hard to do therapy or intervention in a half-hour or one hour-spot," she said. They have these longer interventions

"where important change will occur," she said. "Where important change will occur is in the one-hour spot but at least one pop psychologist couldn't fault Phil, or McGraw for trying to help someone."

"I'm sure Dr. Phil does not want to exploit her. He has all this experience in helping people get over problems," said Dr. Harding, a clinical psychologist who has been dispensing psychological advice to TV viewers for more than 30 years.

But Brothers, who like McGraw, has a Ph.D in psychology, acknowledged that key for any therapist is getting the person who wants it. He has a lot to offer," Brothers said of McGraw. "But only



In Celebration of Her New Life

ELISABETH MILAGRO FLORES CAMACHO

December 26, 1915 – January 5, 2008

GOD HAS BLESSED OUR BELOVED,
ELISABETH MILAGRO FLORES CAMACHO
with the longivity of the gift of life.

She was born to her pilgrimmed life on December 26, 1915 and was called by her Creator to her eternal life on January 5, 2008 at the age of 92.

In her New Life, she was welcomed by our Savior and all the Angels and Saints together with her loved ones:

Husband:	Manuel Tudela Camacho
Father:	Joaquin Aguon Flores
Mother:	Yerma Aguon Briggemann/ Antonia Camacho Borja
Father-in-Law:	Luis Muna Camacho
Mother-in-Law:	Maria Ramirez Tudela
Son:	Leonardo Luis Flores Camacho
Grand-Son:	Edwin C. DL. Guerrero
Grand-daughter-in-Law:	Cathy Agulto Deleon Guerrero
Great-Grandchildren:	Alvin Francisco C. DL. Guerrero and Zacharay Jr. T. Camacho

Brothers/Sisters & In-Laws:

The Flores'
Manuel/Dolores F. Reyes, Teresa B. Flores, Frederico/Rosalia [illegible] Vicente Borja, [illegible] Jesus/Jasmin/Magdalena Flores, Vicente Camacho, Leonardo Flores, Cecilia/Jesús Boyer

The Camacho's
Feliciano C. Ada, Concepcion T. Camacho/Lodrigo Castro/Vicente Castro, Felix T. Camacho, Jose/Guadalupe C. Diaz, Jose T./Juana T. Camacho/Ana T. Camacho/Juan C. Camacho/Gregorio T./Elizabeth B. Camacho, Pedro T./Maria Camacho, Francisco T./Rosa C. Camacho, Monica T. Camacho/Lino Q. Blanco/Francisco S. Duenas

Heartpeaceful Memories will live in the hearts of her:

Children/Spouses/grand/great/great great grand-children:

Isias & Merced C. Maratita: (Regina/Authur)[Chelsea, Courtney, Camerine, Cassidy, Colin, Carthin, Caleb] (Elizabeth M./Rocky) [Christopher John, Ian Brandon, Andrew, Atheya Jeroush] 4 great-great-Brothers, who herself has Nathanial, Zachariah, Thaddeus, (Irene/Leo) [Nicolas, Daniel, Isha Mercedes, Isaiah, Analisa]; (Kenneth/Mormie) [Lisa & Alexander]; (Merrilinda/Justin) [Mabelyn, Megan, Mariah, Madison]; (Dominic) [Jason & daughter]

Tina C. Sablan: (Richard/Elaine) [Leana Dee, Ashley, Deleana, Estasia]; (Joann/Mark); (Lorina/Gary) [Christian, Nicolas, Brandon, Gardner]

Jesus Q. & Wilhelmina (Nita) JC. Deleon Guerrero: (Taylor/Marie) [Braxton, William, Bradley, Elizabeth]; (Norvin/Paula) [Jordyn, Jenna, Alaina]; (Zeno/Tina) [Cristal {Jerlyma}, Tasha, Zenol]; (Donvale Darce') [Leland]

Arthur F. Camacho: (Archi/Sabina) [Narissa, Sierra]; (Rebecca) [Terrance, Ariel]; (Arthur/Edlina) [Ally, Hans, Joaquin, Yerma]; (Steven/Leslie) [Kesha, /Alyssa, Ariah, Steven Jr., Ayisha]; (Alan/Gwen) [Johnathan, Janeille, Amilynn, Adrian, Sean, Stefen]; (Michio/Stephanie) [Shane, Shanae]; Joshua

Fred F. & Magdalena C. Camacho: (Lareina/Melvin); (Russell) [Rico]; Rodney; Ryan

Faustino & Lillian Camacho: (Manuel/Jennifer) [Matthew, Claymore, Ozz]; Sidney; (Zachary/Jocelyn) [Donavan, Zack]; Brenda; (Nadine/Bentor) [Lance]; (Sherman/Jenalynn) [Juliana, Shannelle]

James & Alfonsina (Sina) C. Taylor: (Cindy/Christopher); Catherine

Thomas & Anicia C. Dela Cruz: (Yolanda/Bill) [Thomas William, Cristino Manuel]; (Elden/Rose) [Elden Michael, Jenise, Jay Peter, Jeandra, Jazmine]; Keith; Herman Thomas

Rosiky F. & Winnie Camacho: (William/Pauline) [Brian, Nathan, Tiah Nicole]; Raymond; Matthew; Patrick

Abraham & Immaculada(Emma) C. Arriola: (Berlin, Germania, Bremen)

Rufino Camacho & Kiyomi Mafnas: (Rachelle, Rufino, Rana, Risha, Daniel, David)

Brothers & Sisters and in-laws:

Estefania F. Camacho, Fermin B. Flores, Augustin B./Carmen Flores, Eduardo B./Maximina Flores, Vicente/Magdalena F. Santos, Baldobino B./Betsey Flores, Rosa B. Flores, Maximo/Esabel F.Tudela, Marino B./Rose Flores, & Joaquin B./Rosita Flores

She is additionally survived by numerous, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, and Godchildren.

Daily Mass is offered at 6:00 pm followed by the Holy Rosary at San Roque Church, San Roque, Saipan.

Last respect may be paid on Saturday, January 12, 2008 from 07:30 am until 10:00 am at San Roque Church followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 am. Interment services will follow at the San Roque Cemetery.

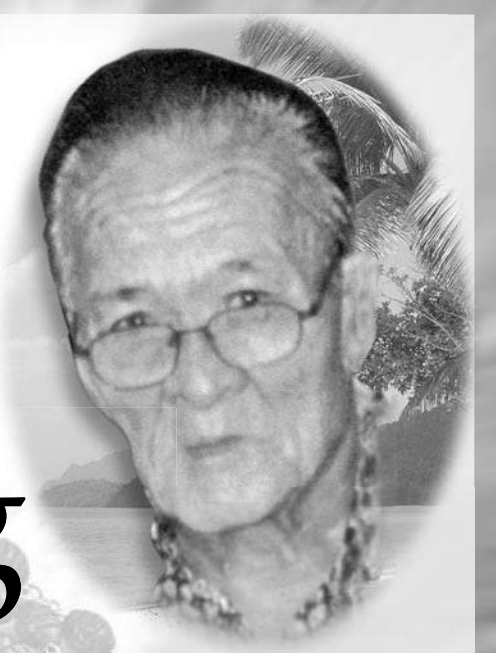
Your thoughts, prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Si Yuus Maase from the Children and their Family.

First Death Anniversary

We the children of

Augusto Barcinas Atalig



Invite our family and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first death anniversary of our beloved father and grandpa's passage into eternal life.

Mass of special Intention is being offered daily at 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church, Koblerville beginning (Wednesday) January 09, 2008 to (Thursday), January 17, 2008, except (Saturday), January 12, 2008 at 7:00 a.m. and (Sunday), January 13, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.

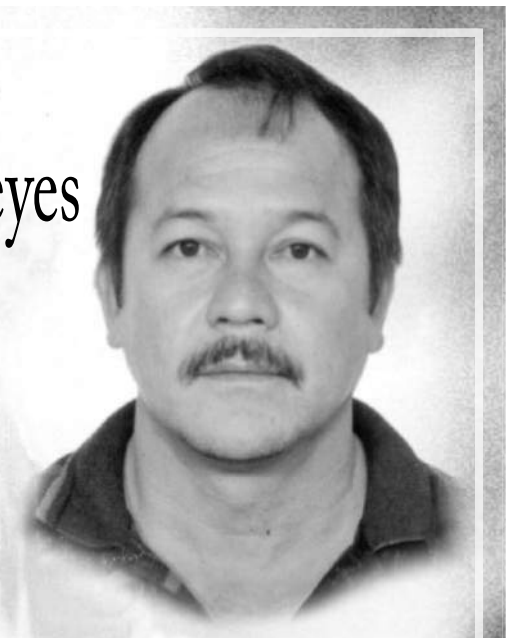
Your presence, thoughts and prayer are greatly appreciated.

Perry & Debra Inos and Children

In Loving Memory

Manuel Santos Reyes

June 21, 1956 — January 07, 2008



In his new life, Manuel now joins his:
Father: Esteban A. Reyes
Mother: Carmen S. Reyes
Sister: Maria Liza Reyes Camacho
Brother: William Reyes

He will be remembered in the hearts of his:
Wife: Adora R. Reyes
Children: Mark Steven Reyes, Darrell Reyes, Arjhey Durante (son in law).

Mother-In Law: Belen Regodon

Brothers & Sisters & In Laws:
Maria Liza (deceased) Pedro Camacho (Jeannette), Raymond/Maria Reyes, David/Dolores Reyes, Juan/Florentina Reyes, Edwar/Judy Reyes, Esteban Reyes/Yolanda San Nicolas, Florence/George Fleming, Antonio/Esabella Reyes, Diana/Jose Sasamoto, Virginia Reyes, Lillian Reyes, Andrew Reyes, William (deceased) Reyes & Children, Richard/Haide Reyes.

..And numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends.

Rosary is being said every evening at **7:30 p.m. at the San Roque Church**, San Roque, Saipan, **Burial** will be on **Tuesday**, the **15th of January 2008, at the Mt. Carmel Church**, Saipan His remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Service in San Jose, Saipan at 7:30 a.m. **Mass** will be at **11:00 a.m.** followed by burial at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers,
The Family

Author sues Seinfelds over cookbook

NEW YORK (AP)—An author who claims Jerry Seinfeld's wife plagiarized her cookbook sued the famous couple on Monday, finding no humor when the comedian compared the three-name author to the three-name killers of John Lennon and Martin Luther King Jr.

The lawsuit, seeking unspecified damages for copyright and trademark infringement, was brought in U.S. District Court in Manhattan by Missy Chase Lapine, the author of "The Sneaky Chef: Simple Strategies for Hiding Healthy Foods in Kids' Favorite Meals."

"Jerry Seinfeld is an enormously wealthy and well-known comedian, and Jessica Seinfeld is his wife, but that does not give them license to slander and plagiarize," the lawsuit said.

The Seinfelds' lawyer, Richard Menaker, disputed Lapine's claims of defamation and plagiarism and suggested Lapine was seeking publicity to boost her book's sales.

"Both are without merit," Menaker said. "There's no truth in fact or law to this claim of plagiarism. The idea for Jessica Seinfeld's book came from her own experiences with her family out of her own kitchen."

And he said there was "no basis" for any kind of legal claim of defamation.

"Jerry Seinfeld is entitled to his opinions," Menaker said. "Even though Jerry Seinfeld is a public figure, he doesn't lose his right to free speech because of that."

In October, HarperCollins published Jessica Seinfeld's "Deceptively Delicious: Simple Secrets to Get Your Kids Eating Good Food."

Hearing about the Seinfeld book in May while promoting her own book, published a month earlier, Lapine complained, and the war of words was under way.

The lawsuit said the Seinfelds were warned even before the book was published that it had blatant similarities to Lapine's book.

Still, when Jerry Seinfeld appeared on CBS' "Late Show with David Letterman" in October, he suggested Lapine was a crackpot and declared his wife not guilty of "vegetable plagiarism," the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit also quoted him telling Letterman: "Now you know, having a career in show business, one of the fun facts of celebrity life is wackos will wait in the woodwork to pop out at certain moments of your life to inject a little adrenaline into your life experience."

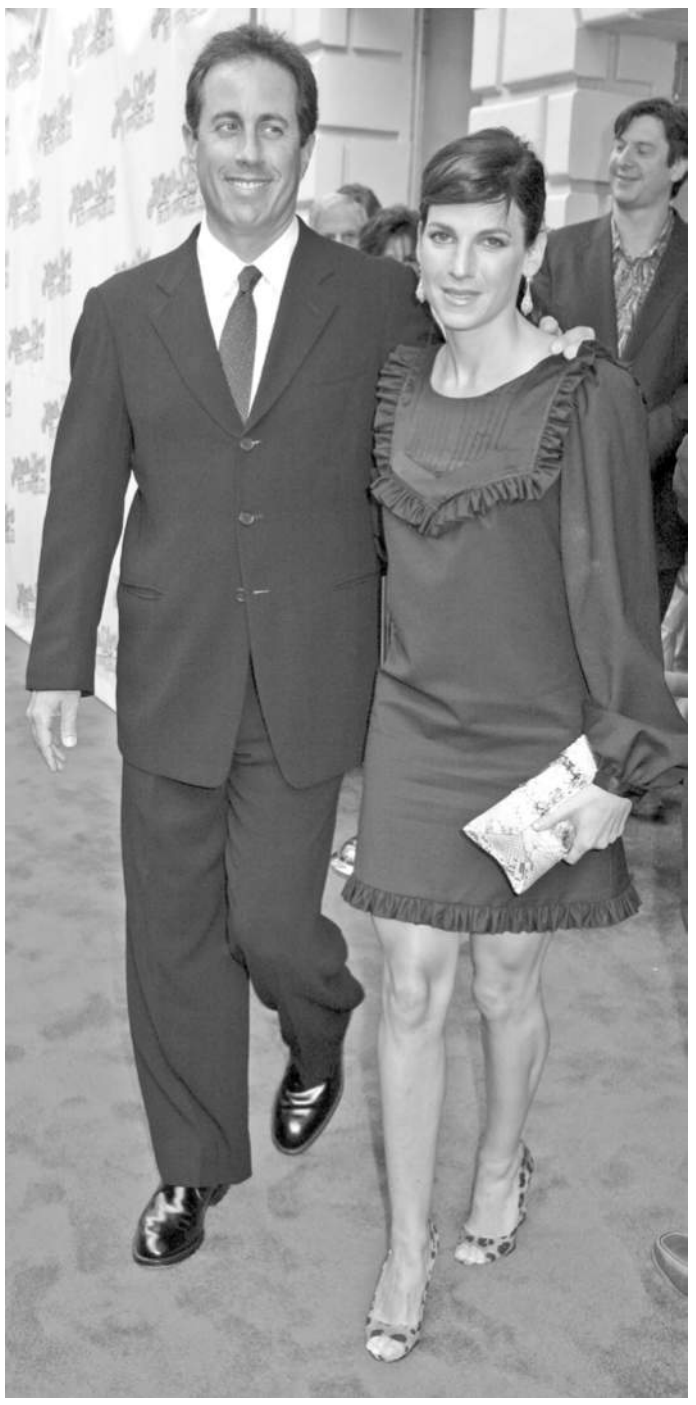
It said Seinfeld also noted that Lapine has three names and that "if you read history, many of the three-name people do become assassins."

Then Seinfeld added, "Mark David Chapman. And you know, James Earl Ray. So that's my concern," the lawsuit recalled.

Lennon was shot and killed outside his Manhattan apartment by Chapman, a deranged fan, on Dec. 8, 1980. King was assassinated by Ray on April 4, 1968, on the balcony of a hotel in Memphis, Tenn.

The lawsuit said a reasonable person watching Seinfeld on Letterman's show would conclude that he had described Lapine as mentally ill with "potentially violent or, at a minimum, hostile, tendencies, proclivities and activities."

It argued that Lapine was not a public figure, does not suffer mental infirmity, is not a celebrity stalker, is not violent or dangerous, and does not engage in extortion or lies.



AP

In this Thursday, Aug. 17, 2006 file picture, actor Jerry Seinfeld and his wife Jessica arrive at the opening night of the musical "Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me" in New York.

Judge denies motion by 'Sahara' author

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has denied a bid by the author of the book behind the 2005 film "Sahara" to obtain a judgment of more than $8.5 million against the film's producers, according to court documents.

Clive Cussler sued Crusader Entertainment in 2004, claiming the company reneged on a contract that gave him approval rights over the film's screenplay. Crusader countersued, accusing Cussler of duping it into adapting his book into a film based on an inflated number of novels sold.

Jurors ruled last May in favor of the production company, and the author was ordered to pay Crusader $5 million.

Cussler subsequently sought to amend his original complaint and argued that the jury had left it up to the court to award him $8.5 million involving the movie rights to another book that was never made into a film.

In a ruling issued Thursday, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge John P. Shook denied Cussler's motions.

Attorney Marvin Putnam, who represented Crusader—now named Bristol Bay Productions—said the ruling means Cussler must still pay the $5 million awarded to the company during trial.

Cussler's attorney Bert Fields said his client didn't suffer a loss.

"The judge has yet to decide on who is the prevailing party in the action. When the judge does decide, he will find, that under the law, Mr. Cussler is the prevailing party in the case," said Fields.

"Sahara," starred Matthew McConaughey and Penelope Cruz.

Publicist: Nicole Kidman is pregnant

AP

Actress Nicole Kidman is shown in this Nov. 8, 2007 file photo in New York.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nicole Kidman is pregnant, her publicist confirmed Monday. The 40-year-old actress and her husband country singer Keith Urban "are expecting a baby," publicist Catherine Olim said in a brief statement. "The couple are thrilled," Olim said.

The baby would be the first for Kidman and Urban. She already has two adopted children with ex-husband Tom Cruise.

Kidman recently confided to Vanity Fair that she had a miscarriage early on in her relationship with Cruise, leading them to adopt.

Kidman won an Oscar for her role in the 2002 film "The Hours." Urban, a singer and guitarist raised in Australia, won a Grammy in 2006 for best male country vocal

ABC's prime-time debate proves a hit

NEW YORK (AP)—Democracy proved a prime-time hit on ABC on Saturday, particularly for the Democratic candidates for president.

The four-person Democratic debate aired on ABC News the weekend before Tuesday's New Hampshire primary was seen by 9.36 million people, according to Nielsen Media Research. It directly followed a debate with the Republican candidates that drew 7.35 million viewers.

Both were, by far, the most watched debates in a political preseason that was clogged by them. The previous high, one with GOP candidates that was aired by CNN on Nov. 28, had just under 4.5 million viewers, Nielsen said.

The ratings on what is traditionally the least-watched night of TV each week may have ABC wishing it was a series. No reruns of scripted entertainment series aired by ABC the previous Saturday reached even 4 million viewers.

Campbell interviews Chavez

LONDON (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez says he likes Prince Charles and thinks President Bush is crazy, in an interview with Naomi Campbell in the British edition of GQ magazine. The 37-year-old supermodel spoke to Chavez in her role as contributing editor to British GQ, the magazine said. Excerpts were released Monday.

Chavez, who lost a referendum last month that would have greatly expanded his powers and institutionalized his version of "21st-century socialism," gave Campbell his views on a range of subjects.

He said President Bush was "completely crazy. But he's on his way out."

"We're seeing the fall of the empire. ... Like the fairy tale, the emperor is naked," he was quoted as saying.

Asked to name the world's most stylish leader, Chavez chose Cuba's Fidel Castro.

"Fidel, of course! His uniform is impeccable. His boots are polished, his beard is elegant," Chavez said.

Campbell asked if Chavez would appear topless in photos as Russian President Vladimir Putin has done.

"Why not?" he said. "Touch my muscles!"

The Venezuelan leader asked Campbell if she knew Prince Charles.

"I like the Prince," he said. "Now he has Camilla, his new girl. She's not as attractive, is she?"

GQ said Campbell would interview other high-profile figures in politics, sports and entertainment.

Letterman loses strike-inspired beard

NEW YORK (AP)—For David Letterman fans, it may have been the kindest cut of all: His beard is history. The late-night funnyman had the bushy beard he grew while off the air during the strike by the Writers Guild of America shaved Monday on his "Late Show." One barber buzzed the beard with an electric razor; the next one lathered him up and finished the job with a straight razor.

"We have to say goodbye to an old friend tonight, and I'm just sick about it," Letterman said.

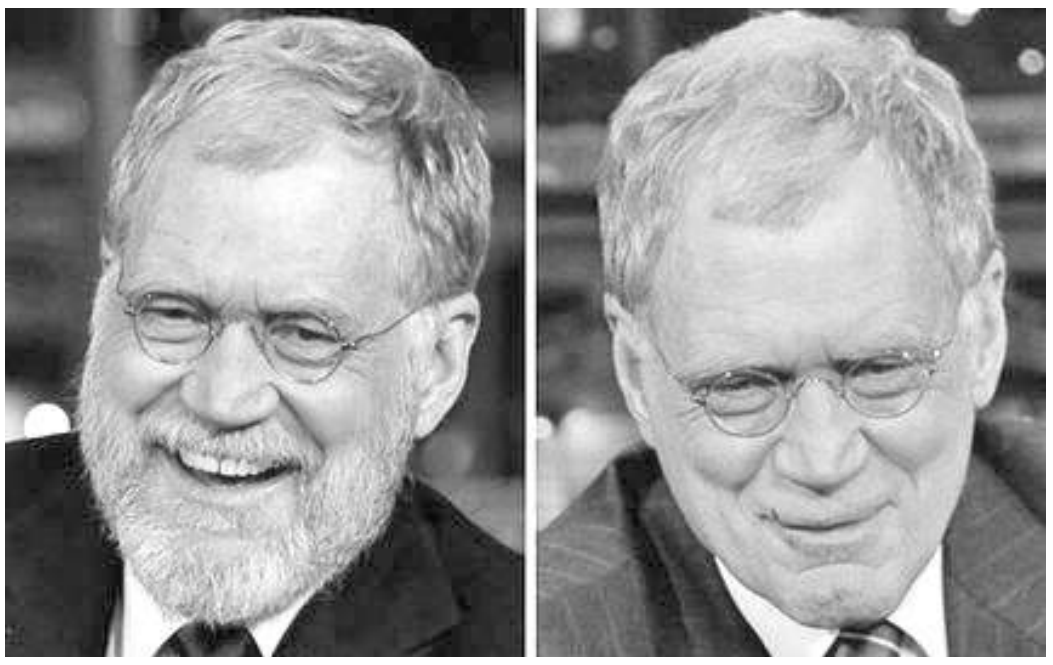
He said he was "being pressured" to shave, although he wouldn't say by whom. Not shaving added 15 minutes to his day that he could use to goof off, he said.

He had fun with newspaper photos and cartoons about his beard, including one in which a couple sat at home watching his show. "Shhh," one said to the other. "He's about to do his opening fatwa."

Guest Tom Hanks brought Letterman a first-aid kit for a small cut above the lip.

"Shaving beards on TV," Hanks said. "That's what shows without writers do."

Letterman's show and others recently reached a deal that allowed their writers to return to work.



AP

In this combination of two photos made available by CBS, David Letterman is shown on the set of "The Late Show with David Letterman" in New York before and after shaving his beard.

Hasselbeck brings baby son to 'The View'

NEW YORK (AP)—Elisabeth Hasselbeck took her newborn son, Taylor Thomas, to work Monday. It was her first day back on ABC's "The View" since going on maternity leave more than two months ago. She gave birth to Taylor Thomas at an Arizona hospital Nov. 9.

Hasselbeck

Hasselbeck and co-host Sherri Shepherd took turns holding him. He cried at first, but was generally well behaved on his first-ever live TV appearance. The camera focused on his face several times as the audience oohed and ahh-ed.

Hasselbeck, 30, joked that she calls herself "the dairy queen" because she's breast-feeding. "You don't even look like you were pregnant," Shepherd told her. "You are so tiny."

Hasselbeck, wearing a waist-concealing dress with a floral pattern, responded: "Wear a print."

The conservative "View" co-host and her husband, Arizona Cardinals quarterback Tim Hasselbeck, also have a 2-year-old daughter Grace.

Monday's edition of the daytime chatfest included a full hour of "Hot Topics." When the conversation turned to politics, co-host Joy Behar joked that Taylor Thomas should leave the stage because things could get uncomfortable for him.

Proud dad is at daughter's side during grandson's birth

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I was a single father to my two daughters for several years. I love them with all my heart. Even though I do not always approve of everything they do, my love for them is unconditional, and we're very close.

My 25-year-old daughter, "Tracy," recently had a baby boy. The child's father is not in the picture. She's doing well as a new mom and single working parent. I'm proud of her.

When Tracy was ready to deliver, she asked me to be with her in the delivery room. I had no problem with it, but my current wife (Tracy's stepmom) said she thought it was kind of perverted. I disagreed. My girls have always told me I was the best "mother" they could have ever wished for.

My wife and I didn't exactly have a major blowup over it, but she still insists that my being there was inappropriate. What do you think?

NEW GRANDPA IN OKLAHOMA CITY

DEAR GRANDPA: Your daughter gave you the greatest honor a woman can give, and it's because you fulfilled the role of BOTH parents during an important time of her life. If your daughter wanted you with her during this joyous, but stressful time, then that's where you belonged.

Giving birth to a baby is not like performing a pole dance. Your wife should loosen her laces and be less judgmental.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 34 and have read your column since I was 14. My parents have a gambling problem. They are both retired and on fixed incomes. They get a check once a month, but as soon as it arrives they spend all their money gambling, and call my sister and me for money because they can't pay their bills.

I don't want to give them any more money because they use it to try and "double" and still don't pay their bills. But my sister and I feel guilty that they don't have any money.

We don't know how to help them. Is it possible to get power of attorney over two gambling addicts who are otherwise healthy adults? If not, what else can you suggest?

READY TO FOLD IN PHOENIX

DEAR READY TO FOLD: It's good that you realize your parents are gambling ADDICTS, because addicts have certain behaviors that are universal. First among them, they rope the people who love them into becoming enablers. That is what your parents have done to you and your sister. By giving them money "to pay their bills," what you loving daughters are also doing is enabling them to continue their habit.

Getting power of attorney can be difficult unless the person can be proved unable to responsibly take care of him—or herself. Homelessness might be a compelling example of that.

Your first step should be to contact a chapter of Gam-Anon Family Groups. It's a 12-step fellowship for men and women who are husbands, wives, relatives or friends of compulsive gamblers and who have been affected by their loved one's gambling problem. You and your sister definitely qualify. The Web site is www.gam-anon.org.

Once you begin to understand the self-destructive cycle your parents have created, and how they have caught you in it, it'll be easier to help them get the help they so desperately need.

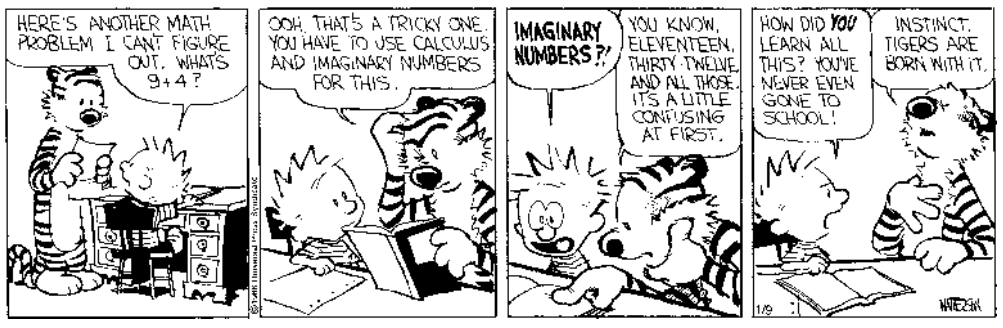
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

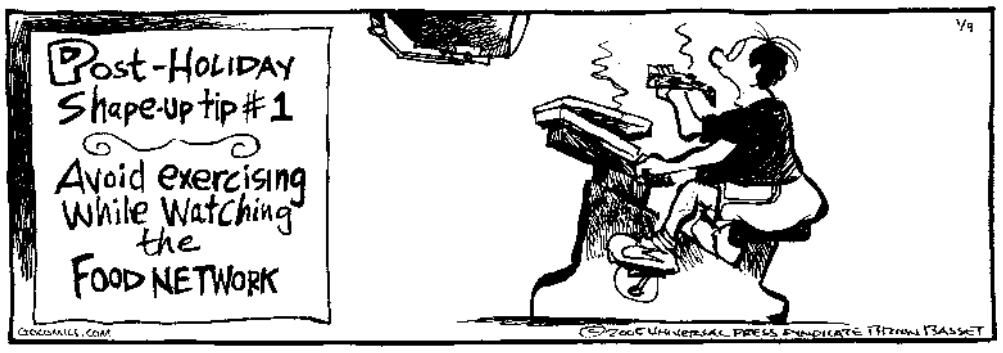

HERE'S ANOTHER MATH PROBLEM I CAN'T FIGURE OUT. WHAT'S 9+4?
OOH, THAT'S A TRICKY ONE. YOU HAVE TO USE CALCULUS AND IMAGINARY NUMBERS FOR THIS.
IMAGINARY NUMBERS?!
YOU KNOW, ELEVENTEEN, THIRTY-TWELVE, AND ALL THOSE. IT'S A LITTLE CONFUSING AT FIRST.
HOW DID YOU LEARN ALL THIS? YOU'VE NEVER EVEN GONE TO SCHOOL!
INSTINCT. TIGERS ARE BORN WITH IT.
1/9
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


Post-Holiday Shape-up tip #1
Avoid exercising While Watching the FOOD NETWORK
1/9
©2007 Universal Press Syndicate Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I USED TO READ PLAYBOY, BUT I FOUND THAT OFFENDED SOME PEOPLE. NOW I TRY TO BE MORE AWARE OF OTHERS' FEELINGS.
SO WHAT ARE YOU READING NOW?
POPULAR MECHANICS.
HOW DO YOU THINK THAT MAKES UNPOPULAR MECHANICS FEEL?
1-9

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Coin aperture
5 — de deux
8 Shrek is one
12 Top-rated
13 Coffee shop vessel
14 Lakeside structure
15 Casino game
17 Blueprint
18 Add, in a way
19 Coral rings
21 Noon, on a sundial
22 Meds measure
23 Recede
26 Fresh
28 Subway
31 Do mailroom work
33 Raring to go
35 Poker variety
36 Far-from-the-city area
38 Mono-kini's lack
40 Tackle's teammate
41 Beaks
43 Piercing tool
45 Infraction
47 Continues
51 On the — (unfriendly)
52 Brunch order
54 Aware of
55 Massachusetts cape
56 Porter's "Let's —"
57 Acute
58 Crucial
59 Pouches

DOWN
1 Ganges garment
2 Crazy one
3 Burden
4 Old communications machine
5 Caulking materials
6 Illustrations
7 "Slammin' Sammy" of golf
8 Battles
9 Big name in razors
10 Authentic
11 Sea flock
16 Ireland
20 Infamous peeper
23 Language suffix
24 Carton
25 Woman with dark hair
27 Symbol of intrigue
29 Scoot
30 Peculiar
32 Only crime defined in the Constitution
34 "Hamlet," for one
37 Telly option
39 MPs' quarry
42 Jolt
44 West Yorkshire city
45 Volume
46 Mysterious character
48 Old portico
49 Ear-related
50 Profits
53 Larry's pal

Solution time: 21 mins.

D	A	T	A	■	B	B	C	■	P	O	M	E
E	S	A	U	■	E	R	A	■	J	B	J	D
P	I	C	K	M	E	U	P	■	C	O	D	E
P	A	T	■	O	F	T	■	S	K	E	J	N
■	■	■	P	R	Y	■	C	O	E	■	■	■
P	U	T	I	N	■	J	O	Y	R	I	D	E
E	P	I	C	■	V	E	X	■	J	C	O	N
T	A	C	K	L	C	D	■	K	N	E	A	D
■	■	■	E	A	T	■	J	I	G	■	■	■
D	U	S	T	Y	■	D	O	C	■	A	S	S
E	R	N	E	■	P	I	C	K	E	R	E	L
A	G	A	R	■	A	R	K	■	Y	E	T	I
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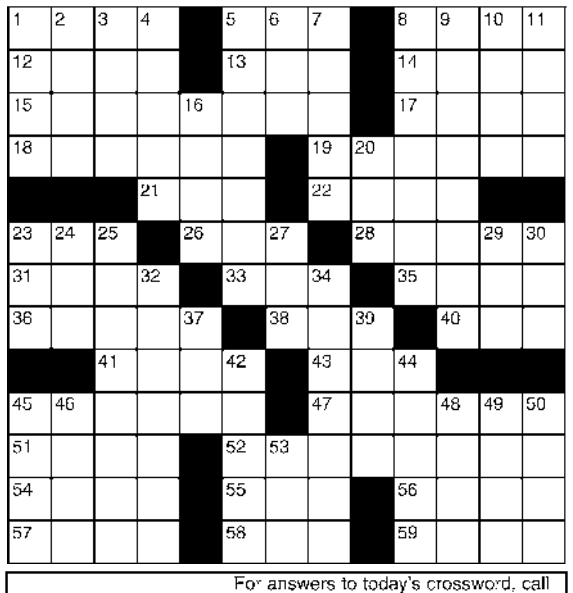
Yesterday's answer 1-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: A.J. McLean, 30; Dave Matthews, 41; Crystal Gayle, 57; Jimmy Page, 64

Happy Birthday: Implement new ways of putting contracts, legalities and settlements behind you. Once you make a clear passageway, you can travel whatever distance is required to reach your goals. You will have the stamina to accomplish whatever you set out to do, so don't sell yourself short. Your numbers are 11, 20, 26, 32, 37, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Sharing with people who have similar interests will help you recognize what's important and how you should conduct your business in the future. Love is in the stars and a spur of the moment trip will lead to an interesting destination. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Emotions will be difficult to control and, if you let your personal life disrupt your productivity, you may fall short of what's expected. Take a serious look at who is causing all the trouble in your life and rectify the situation. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): As long as you keep things steady and avoid sudden changes, you will reach your goals and dazzle everyone with your ingenuity and talents. Don't get dragged down by someone's negativity. Follow your instincts. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't get anxious unnecessarily. Gauge your reactions based on what you know, not what you assume. Don't be afraid of the changes going on around you—they will be good for you. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You may think you are being pulled in many different directions. Stick to the person you feel most comfortable with and you won't have to worry about making an emotional mistake. An idea you have will turn into a worthwhile investment. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You won't be able to count on others but, if you put in the time and get things done, you will reap the rewards. Change is upon you and, although you may not like what you see unfolding, give others a chance. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take things at face value. As soon as you read too much into something, you will get off track. Focus on your own talents and how you can best put them to use. You will be recognized for what you do, not what you fail to do. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can make a mistake easily if you are too quick to share your thoughts or plans. Be the quiet observer today. You will be able to adjust your own schedule and plans to suit your needs rather than those of someone else. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Hold back if you think you may be taken advantage of. If you spread yourself too thin or go along with change you don't agree with, you will have to do things all over again. Don't get angry, just do what is required. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Put in your time and you will see results. Money is apparent if you are serious about closing a deal or going after a settlement. You will have what it takes to finish what you start and beat out anyone who may try to stand in your way. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Your charm will help you get your way and the help you require. Someone you love will surprise you. The help you give others will be returned twofold. Be good to the ones you love and to yourself. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't make snap decisions without having all the facts. There will be lots of hidden matters to deal with before you will actually know what's going on. Sit back and bide your time or you will make a mistake that will be difficult to fix. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive, curious, thoughtful, sensitive and practical. You are adventuresome, generous and unpredictable.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6	7			2			
1			9		4		6	
			1		8		5	
			2		7		4	
		9			6	8	3	5
	5						2	
6							1	
5							9	
2	3	8	6				7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	4	1	5	9	2	6	8	7
5	7	9	3	8	6	2	4	1
6	8	2	7	4	1	3	9	5
9	6	8	1	2	3	5	7	4
2	5	4	9	6	7	1	3	8
1	3	7	4	5	8	9	2	6
8	1	6	2	7	9	4	5	3
7	2	5	6	3	4	8	1	9
4	9	3	8	1	5	7	6	2

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TOP SECRET — Solution: 7 letters

E	C	L	A	N	D	E	S	T	I	N	E	L	I	F
S	U	O	M	Y	N	O	N	A	S	E	T	I	P	S
I	B	P	N	O	T	C	(L)	S	P	R	O	B	E	Y
R	U	E	T	F	R	S	(E)	U	G	A	V	P	R	O
P	R	E	P	L	I	C	(A)	T	E	H	M	A	E	S
R	Y	K	A	L	C	D	(K)	V	J	S	T	I	T	N
U	R	B	E	A	K	O	E	U	E	I	A	A	N	E
S	E	N	N	T	V	R	I	N	L	D	L	R	U	D
L	C	Y	N	E	D	C	E	I	T	E	K	M	O	R
E	I	C	R	N	Y	T	M	V	S	I	S	Y	C	U
M	P	T	E	T	A	R	I	E	E	Z	A	M	N	B
E	E	S	B	V	E	C	A	R	T	A	L	L	E	T
H	E	U	I	T	L	T	L	S	O	A	L	L	D	F
C	A	R	D	S	A	O	C	E	L	I	P	S	I	I
S	P	T	S	D	H	U	S	H	P	D	L	O	H	G

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Access, Anonymous, Army, Bids, Burdens, Bury, Cards, Claim, Clandestine, Confidential, Data, Deny, Encounter, File, Gift, Hide, Hold, Hush, Juicy, Keep, Label, Latent, Leak, Lips, Maze, Military, Mind, Note, Open, Over, Plot, Private, Probe, Recipe, Replicate, Reveal, Saved, Scheme, Share, Silence, Solve, Surprise, Tales, Talks, Tell, Term, Tips, Trace, Trick, Trust, Universe, Vague

Yesterday's Answer: Cottage

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1 MASSEUSE/MASSEUR
(W 80559)
Salary:$3.05-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Dani Corporation dba Sabana II @233-2058.

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4 FASTFOOD RESTAURANT SUPERVISOR (W 80560)
Salary:$3.75-$6.25/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; transportation self arranged & workmens compensation. Contact: J.C.A. Inc. dba McDonald's @235-8761.

1 ACCOUNTANT (W 80561)
Salary:$5.00-$10.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation provided & transportation self arranged. Contact: J.C.A. Inc. dba McDonald's @235-8761.

3 FASTFOOD WORKER
(W 80562)
Salary:$3.55-$4.25/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; workmen's compensation provided & transportation self arrange. Contact: J.C.A. Inc. dba McDonald's @235-8761.

---

2 ACCOUNTANT (W 80563)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: OCM (Saipan) Corporation dba Bluehaus/OCM Professionals @233-2862/285-9308.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (W 80564)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; $100.00/food deduct monthly; surety bond & medical. Contact: Gregory Borja @235-4833.

---

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (W 80565)
Salary:$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman's compensation. Contact: Hugh L. Hargrove dba Landmark Limited @235-3329.

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1 PHOTOGRAPHER/MED. SPEC. (W 80566)
Salary:$400.00/bi-weekly. Benefits: Medical benefits & transportation to & from job side. Contact: Edwin K. Propst dba Pacific Digital Media. @235-4176.

---

1 HOUSEWORKER (W 80567)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; $100.00/per month food; medical & transportation provided by employer. Contact: Jeremy Mendiola dba Private @234-0707.

---

1 BEAUTICIAN (W 80568)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; employee provided food; & workmen's compensation. Contact: Shao Hongxia Jones dba D'Ocean Beauty Salon @287-8206.

---

1 TOURIST-INFORMATION ASSISTANT (W 80569)
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---

1 NETWORK SYSTEM (MIS OFFICER) ANALYST (W 80570)
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PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0640
N.A.N.T. and N.N.T., Minor Child	NOTICE OF HEARING
By: RHONDA F. AND FELIX R. NOGIS Petitioners.	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on JANUARY 14, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

WHATZIT Solution:
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Opening Date: December 24, 2007
Closing Date: January 18, 2008
Position: Laundry Supervisor
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Plus other benefits as mandated by law.

Nature of Work: Supervises and coordinates activities of workers engaged in receiving, mark washing, and ironing clothes or linen in laundry: Determines sequence in which flatwork, one-day service, and white and colored work are to be scheduled through laundry to provide quick and efficient service to customers and to regulate work loads. Inspect articles to determine methods of specific cleaning requirements. Inspect finished laundered articles to ensure conformance to standards. Observe operation of machines and equipment to detect possible malfunctions. Investigates and resolves customer complaints of unsatisfactory work or bundle shortage. Studies literature of launderers' and dry cleaners' associations, and confers with salespersons to obtain information on new or improved methods and equipment.

Education & Work Experience: Must be highschool graduate; plus 3-4 years of work experience as Laundry Supervisor.

Interested individuals may pick up an application from Saipan World Resort-Security Office. All application packages must be received at Saipan World Resort no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, January 18, 2008. Late or incomplete application packages will not be accepted. Interested applicants must submit their application, resume, educational credentials and police clearance addressed to the following:

Miriam K. Seman
Manager, Human Resources
Phone: (670) 234-5900 Ext: 274

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

1	M	5	L
2	O	6	I
3	N	7	S
4	A	8	A

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Find today's solution in this section

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune*'s print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*	
• 1st position	$10
• 2nd position	$3
• Succeeding positions	$1
Combo (Print and Online)*	
• 1st position	$13
• 2nd position	$4
• Succeeding positions	$2
Radio (KCNM/KZMI)	
• Up to 6 positions	$5
• More than 6 positions	$10

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.
- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

McNamee says he'd go to jail for Clemens

HOUSTON (AP)—"What do you want me to do?" Brian McNamee asked Roger Clemens that question—or variations of it—21 times during a 17-minute taped conversation. He never really got an answer.

A recording of last Friday's telephone call between Clemens' former trainer and the seven-time Cy Young Award winner was played at Clemens' long-awaited news conference Monday, the first time he faced a group of reporters since McNamee's accusations were made public in the Mitchell Report on Dec. 13.

"What do you want me to do? I'll go to jail, I'll do whatever you want," McNamee said.

"I need somebody to tell the truth, Mac," Clemens told him.

Never, though, did Clemens angrily confront McNamee during the call nor did he accuse the trainer of lying when he told Mitchell he injected Clemens at least 16 times with steroids and human growth hormone in 1998, 2000 and 2001.

Asked why Clemens never directly answered the "what do you want me to do" question, his lawyer, Rusty Hardin, said: "The last thing Roger wanted, just as we did, was any suggestion that we were trying to interfere or coerce a federal witness. So, yeah, all he kept saying (was) nothing. Except you hear him throughout saying, 'Tell the truth.'"

Under state law in New York and Texas, only one party has to give consent for a phone conversation to be taped. In this case, it was Clemens, who was at home. McNamee spoke on a cellular phone.

Hardin said that because McNamee didn't deny Clemens' claims that he never used steroids, it amounted to proof that Clemens was telling the truth. Clemens said McNamee initiated the conversation by sending him an e-mail.

"He said his son was sick and dying. That's why I reached out," Clemens said.

Late Sunday, Clemens filed a defamation suit against McNamee in Texas state court, another salvo in the escalating fight between the pair, who had worked together since they met while with the Toronto Blue Jays a decade ago. One of McNamee's lawyers, Richard Emery, said his client probably will sue Clemens in New York.

After the tape was played, Clemens took about a dozen questions from reporters before testily ending the session on the subject of the Hall of Fame.

"Do you think I played my career because I'm worried about the damn Hall of Fame?" he told a room filled with many potential voters. "You keep your vote. I don't need the Hall of Fame to justify that I put my butt on the line and I worked my tail off, and I defy anybody to say I did it by cheating or taking any shortcuts, OK?"

Hardin said the pitcher was willing to testify Jan. 16 to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. McNamee also has agreed, and the pair will have to repeat their assertions under oath on Capitol Hill. Hardin said Clemens will deny steroid use.

"I'm going to Congress and I'm going to tell the truth," Clemens said. "I'm going to tell everything that I know about the situations and steroids and anything else that I have knowledge about, which isn't a lot."

AP

Roger Clemens, left, and his attorney Rusty Hardin listen as an audio tape is played during a news conference about alleged steroid use Monday, Jan. 7, 2008 in Houston.

The committee planned to ask Clemens' representatives for the complete recording of the telephone conversation played at the news conference, said Karen Lightfoot, communications director for the panel's chairman, California Democrat Henry Waxman.

Clemens' former teammates Andy Pettitte and Chuck Knoblauch, also have been asked to testify. Pettitte hired Jay Reisinger, the lawyer who represented Sammy Sosa before the committee three years ago.

Kirk Radomski also was asked to appear before the committee. In the Mitchell Report, McNamee said he obtained the drugs he used to inject Clemens from the former Mets clubhouse attendant or Clemens supplied them.

Emery said Brian McNamee Jr., 10, has celiac disease, which damages the small intestine and interferes with absorption of nutrients from food.

"It's outrageous and disgusting for them to for their own cynical purposes, to perpetuate a continuing lie, to use this child and splay his disease and disability all over the press for the world to know," Emery said. "It just shows they'll go to any lengths."

McNamee sounded distraught during the conversation.

"I'm in your corner. I don't want this to happen. But I'd also like not to go to jail, too," he said.

His voice cracked when he said: "My wife is gone. My kids are gone."

"I don't have any money. I have nothing," McNamee said. "I'm not doing a book deal. I got offered seven figures to go on TV. I didn't do it. I didn't take it. I didn't do anything. All I did was what I thought was right—I never thought it was right, but I thought that I had no other choice, put it that way."

McNamee said during the call that in 2004 he warned Jim Murray, who works for Clemens' agents, to be prepared for a link to Radomski to come out.

"Any suggestion by Brian McNamee that he gave the name of Kirk Radomski to anyone at our firm is erroneous," Hendricks Sports Management said in a statement.

On Sunday, McNamee told SI.com that Clemens was "in no way an abuser of steroids."

"He took them in late July, August, and never for more than four to six weeks max," he was quoted as saying. "Within the culture of what was going on, he was just a small part of it. A lot of guys did it. You can't take away the work Roger did. You can't take away the fact that he worked out as hard as anybody."

Hardin said he is recommending that Clemens not take a lie detector test.

"I think he's the one guy who could probably beat the test," McNamee told SI.com. "He might actually believe that he's telling the truth."

Steinbrenner: Don't rush to judge Rocket

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Hank Steinbrenner isn't sure whether Roger Clemens used steroids and human growth hormone. The New York Yankees senior vice president thinks others are rushing to judgment, though.

Clemens held a news conference Monday in Houston, again denying allegations in last month's Mitchell Report that he used performance-enhancing drugs.

"I thought that the press conference spoke for itself," Steinbrenner said Monday night outside Legends Field at the Yankees' spring training complex. "I thought the media commentary after the press conference was over was a little harsh. Too much rush to judgment in this country. As far as whether he's telling the truth or not, I have no clue. But I'm not going to say, well, he's lying, like everybody on TV did after he was done."

Clemens filed a defamation suit late Sunday night against his former trainer, Brian McNamee, who told George Mitchell's investigators that he injected the seven-time Cy Young Award winner with steroids and HGH in 1998, 2000 and 2001—before baseball players and owners agreed to ban those substances.

"Everybody, the media, all said, 'Oh, he's got to sue,'" Steinbrenner said. "(Barry) Bonds never sued. Everybody said, 'Why not?' Well, this guy is suing and now they still don't believe him. You've got to start to wonder at some point. I don't rush to judgment. That's the big thing with me. I don't do that, and that's the exact term for it, rush to judgment."

Steinbrenner also agreed with comments made earlier this month by Joe Torre, who managed the Yankees from 1996-2007.

A total of 20 current and former Yankees were identified in Mitchell's report. Torre said the high total likely was due to two of Mitchell's primary sources being from the New York area: McNamee and former Mets clubhouse attendant Kirk Radomski, which "made it look like a lopsided report," Torre said.

Torre also suspects drug use might have been more widespread.

"The biggest thing is, I agree with what Torre said about the Mitchell Report, which I thought was great he said it. Of course, that was his team, too," Steinbrenner said. "That is, it was extremely lopsided towards the Yankees. You can't tell me all those teams weren't doing it. Of course they were."

Torre won the World Series four times in his first five years with New York before leaving at the end of last season and becoming manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

BCS to take a serious look at plus-one

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—BCS officials are going to have some serious discussions in the upcoming months about going to a plus-one format, which could create a four-team major college football playoff.

Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner John Swofford, the new coordinator of the Bowl Championship Series, said Monday he intends to lead a "thorough" evaluation of the plus-one format. The BCS must determine in the next nine to 12 months what format it will use for the 2010 season (2011 bowls) so it can negotiate a new television deal.

Swofford takes over this year for Southeastern Conference commissioner Mike Slive as the public face of the BCS.

Swofford and Slive, speaking to the Football Writers Association of America, said there was increased support among conference commissioners and university presidents for having serious discussions about the plus-one, which would set the national championship game matchup after the Rose, Orange, Sugar and Fiesta bowls have been played.

Top-ranked Ohio State and No. 2 LSU were to play in the BCS national championship Monday night.

Big East commissioner Mike Tranghese and Big 12 commissioner Dan Beebe have also said they'd like to look deeper into a plus-one.

Big Ten commissioners Jim Delany and Pac-10 commissioner Tom Hansen have said the university presidents they work for are opposed to moving the BCS to a plus-one, in part because it could make the Rose Bowl less attractive.

The Big Ten and Pac-10 have a contractual relationship with the Rose Bowl.

"Not withstanding that opposition, we will continue to discuss and evaluate the plus-one or formats of interest brought by others that come to the table," Slive said. "Fully understanding that in the final analysis that it comes down to each conference deciding what format it prefers."

Commissioners from all 11 major college football conferences will meet in Miami in April and the plus-one will be a topic.

"I think we would be remiss if we didn't have that discussion in full and play it out and see what the ramifications of it are in great detail," Swofford said. "To see if there are unintended consequences there. What are the pluses, what are the minuses? Really drill into it so we can have the right kind of information.

"Evaluate it in a thorough way and ultimately make a decision. You don't know unless you have that discussion."

Both Swofford and Slive said if a plus-one was adopted, they would support seeding the top four teams after the regular season and playing No. 1 vs. No. 4 and No. 2 vs. No. 3 in bowl games, essentially creating two national semifinals.

Jackson, Warriors outlast Spurs in OT

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Stephen Jackson scored 12 of his 29 points in overtime, and Baron Davis had 34 points and 14 assists in yet another remarkable late-game performance during the Golden State Warriors' 130-121 victory over San Antonio on Monday night.

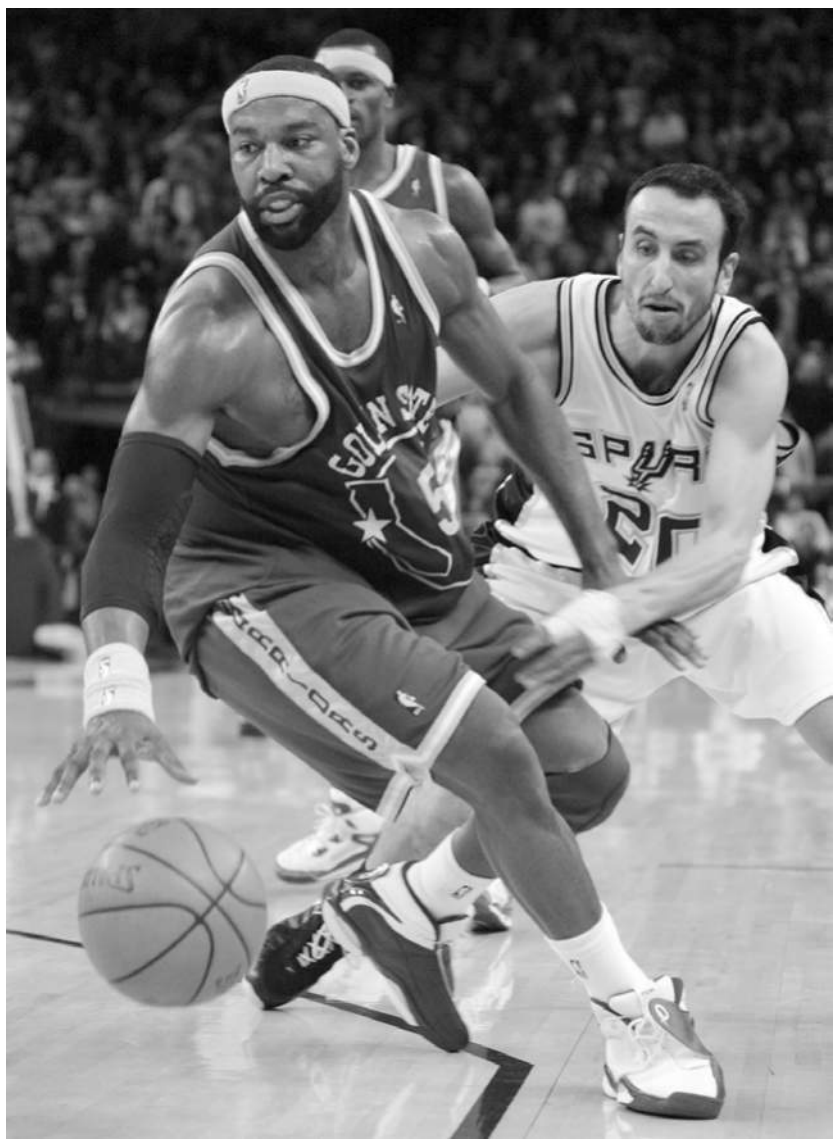
Davis had 12 points in the fourth quarter during a stunning series of baskets and passes, but the defending champion Spurs erased a six-point deficit in the final 47 seconds. Tony Parker forced overtime on a 3-pointer with 6.3 seconds left in San Antonio's second loss at Golden State in four weeks.

Jackson, who won a title with the Spurs in 2003, hit two 3-pointers and two free throws in a 56-second span of overtime, and Davis added a pullback jumper with 43 seconds to play as the Warriors won the season series with the Spurs for the first time since 1996-97. Golden State also avoided its first three-game losing streak since beginning the season 0-6.

Tim Duncan, who didn't play in the Spurs' previous trip to Oakland on Dec. 11, had 32 points and 13 rebounds, while Parker finished with 31 points and eight assists. The Warriors' tenacity prevented Spurs coach Gregg Popovich from getting his 600th career victory.

Monta Ellis and Kelenna Azubuike scored 16 points apiece for the Warriors, who blew a 14-point lead in the second half before Davis went to work against Bruce Bowen, the Spurs' defensive specialist.

Davis generated 12 points on four consecutive possessions during the final minutes of regulation with a 3-pointer, two consecutive three-point plays and an assist on Jackson's 3-pointer. Another 3-pointer by Davis put Golden State up 110-104 with 57 seconds left in regulation, but Duncan scored five straight points before Parker's tying shot.



AP

Golden State Warriors' Baron Davis, left, drives past San Antonio Spurs' Manu Ginobili, of Argentina, during the second half of a basketball game, Monday, Jan. 7, 2008, in Oakland, Calif.

Ime Udoka then stripped the ball from Davis on a drive, and Mickael Pietrus' 3-point attempt at the buzzer rattled out.

Manu Ginobili scored 20 points for San Antonio in his second game back from a five-game absence with a sprained finger, and Duncan looked solid one day after banging knees with Corey Maggette in the Spurs' victory over the Clippers on Sunday.

San Antonio opens a four-game homestand against Detroit on Thursday, and Popovich still is looking for his 600th career victory. He's seventh among active coaches—and still 653 behind Golden State's Don Nelson, Popovich's boss for two seasons during Nelson's first stint with the Warriors.

"It took me 10 years longer to get 600 wins. What's wrong with that guy?" Nelson cracked before the game. "He's one of the great coaches in our league, and not only that, he's put that franchise together. ... They're the best organization in the NBA, to do what they've done and stay under the (salary) cap."

Suns 137, Nuggets 115

At Phoenix, Shawn Marion scored a season-high 27 points, had six blocked shots, and hit five of Phoenix's 20 3-pointers to lead the Suns' romp of the Nuggets in a matchup of division leaders.

Marcus Banks made a career-high seven 3s en route to a season-best 23 points. The 20 3-pointers matched a franchise record and were one shy of the NBA record set by Toronto in March 2005.

Marion made 11-of-15 shots and grabbed 14 rebounds before leaving with 4:23 to play. All five of his 3s came in the first half. Grant Hill added 20 points, and Amare Stoudemire had 20 points and 10 rebounds as six Suns reached double figures.

Allen Iverson scored 32 for the Nuggets, 17 in the first quarter when his team fell behind 46-34. Carmelo Anthony added 20 points.

Shaq heads to L.A. for hip treatment

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Miami Heat center Shaquille O'Neal flew Monday to Los Angeles to seek medical treatment for a hip injury that has sidelined him the past five games.

O'Neal's departure two games into a five-game trip is the latest setback for an injury-plagued team that has the worst record in the Eastern Conference at 8-26 and has lost seven games in a row. O'Neal had said Sunday he had hoped to return to the lineup Tuesday at Minnesota.

He bruised his left hip Dec. 22 when he dived for a loose ball and slid into the scorer's table during the a win over Utah. He aggravated the injury in a Dec. 26 loss at Philadelphia and hasn't played since.

The hip injury and a sore left knee have contributed to the least productive season of O'Neal's 16-year career. He is averaging 14 points and 7.8 rebounds in 29 games.

Injury layoffs have been common for O'Neal in recent years. He missed 39 games last season, when he underwent left knee surgery. He sat out 21 games during the Heat's 2005-06 championship season because of a sprained ankle and sprained thumb.

The Heat lost O'Neal's backup, Alonzo Mourning, for the season when he tore two knee ligaments in a Dec. 19 loss at Atlanta. Dwyane Wade, Jason Williams and Dorell Wright have all battled injuries recently.

Limping T.O. will be game-time decision

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Terrell Owens was still limping Monday on his sprained left ankle and his status for the Dallas Cowboys' playoff game next weekend was uncertain, though some teammates expect him to play.

"Absolutely, we're all counting on him playing," Jason Witten said. "He's a tough guy. Nobody wants it more than he wants it himself to get out there and play. He's a quick healer, and he looked good out there, I thought."

Coach Wade Phillips said Owens was limited in a light workout Monday, the first for the top-seeded Cowboys (13-3) since learning they will play the New York Giants in the NFC divisional playoffs Sunday - and the first for T.O. since he sustained a high ankle sprain Dec. 22 at Carolina.

"It looks to me that it's going to be a game-time decision on him. ... It's Monday game week. He probably couldn't have played today," Phillips said. "It was a limp-through for him, a walkthrough for us."

Owens wasn't yet on the field during the short period of time at the beginning of the workout that was open to reporters, but Witten and Patrick Crayton were encouraged by what they saw once T.O. joined them.

"I don't know if 81 (Owens) is at full strength, but he's good enough to where he said he was going to practice this week so he can get some timing back and everything," Crayton said.

"It's going to be great to have him back out there on the field," Witten said. "Obviously, he's our playmaker and he makes all of our jobs easier, and helps our team win."

Owens, who has 81 catches for 1,355 yards and an NFC-high 15 touchdowns, wasn't seen during the open locker room period Monday. Team spokesman Rich Dalrymple said Owens didn't plan to talk until after the game.

Despite the optimism expressed by Crayton and Witten, the coach remained cautious when asked repeatedly about Owens' status.

Phillips, who last week hoped Owens could return to practice Wednesday or Thursday, said the dilemma is determining "what percentage" the receiver is going to be healthy before deciding if he will practice or play.

"If he were able to practice Wednesday or Thursday, Friday maybe, it'd clarify things a little easier," Phillips said. "If he can't (practice), that's why I said it'd have to be a game-time decision.

"From his history, from his toughness, his ability to withstand those kind of things, I think those are all positives," he said. "But you still don't want to put him in harm's way."

Drug program may reduce Vick's sentence

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Michael Vick left Virginia on Monday to enter a drug treatment program at a Kansas prison, a move that could reduce the former NFL star's 23-month sentence on a federal dogfighting conviction.

The suspended Atlanta Falcons quarterback is now at the U.S. Bureau of Prisons minimum security facility in Leavenworth, his attorney, Billy Martin, said.

"Mr. Vick hopes to participate in programs offered at that facility, including the Bureau of Prisons drug treatment program," Martin said in a statement.

Vick tested positive for marijuana in September while he was on supervised release following his guilty plea. The residential drug treatment programs at Bureau of Prisons institutions take place in units set apart from the general prison population, lasting at least 500 hours over six to 12 months, according to Bureau of Prisons policy.

Upon successful completion of the program, nonviolent offenders may be granted up to one year of early release. Staff members review the inmates' records and behavior to determine if they are eligible for early release.

If Vick was granted early release, he could be ready to play in the 2009 football season, though he is currently suspended without pay by the NFL.

"Mr. Vick looks forward to being reunited with his family upon completion of his sentence," Martin said. "He is hopeful that following his release he will have the opportunity to resume his career as a professional football player."

Vick was accompanied by U.S. marshals when he left the Northern Neck Regional Jail on Monday morning, said Maj. Ted Hull of the Warsaw, Va., jail.

Yahoo! Sports first reported Friday that Vick planned to enter a drug treatment program at Leavenworth.

AP

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick, center, is escorted by U.S. Marshals, as he arrives at the federal courthouse in Richmond, Va., for his arraignment, in this July 26, 2007 file photo.

Vick and three co-defendants raised pit bulls and trained them for fighting behind the property he owned in rural Surry County. Several dogs that did not perform well in test fights were executed.

The 27-year-old player pleaded guilty in August, admitting he bankrolled the dogfighting operation and helped kill six to eight dogs. He had been held at the Warsaw jail since he surrendered Nov. 19 in anticipation of his sentence.

Vick lost all his lucrative endorsement deals and still must contend with additional legal woes: He and co-defendants Purnell Peace, Quanis Phillips and Tony Taylor are facing state animal cruelty charges in Surry County. Vick's trial is set for April 2.

Calling all runners to the beautiful island of Saipan

On your mark…get set…run! The Marianas Visitors Authority along with Northern Mariana Athletics will be staging the 2008 Festival of Runs this month.

The first event will feature the Saipan Marathon, which will take place on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008. The marathon will consist of a full marathon, a half marathon, and a 10-kilometer fun run.

The marathon will begin at 4:30am and the half and 10-km runs will begin at 5:4am. All runners will gather at American Memorial Park/Micro Beach. Runners have until Jan. 11 to register for the full marathon at $35 and the half and 10-km at $25.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 3rd Annual Saipan Marathon, 27th Annual Half Marathon, and 22nd Annual 10km Fun Run are all set for Jan. 19. File photo above shows the start of last year's marathon.

A $10 fee will be added to any entries received after Jan. 11 and no entry forms will be accepted on the day of the run.

There will also be an orientation and last day of registration for all participants on Jan. 18 at the American Memorial Park amphitheater starting at 4pm and will be followed by a carbo party (spaghetti dinner) at 5pm.

The full marathon course will begin at Micro Beach where runners will have beautiful views of Managaha Island.

Participants will then travel north along Middle Road through the villages of Puerto Rico, Tanapag, and San Roque. The turnaround is in Marpi, north of the Marianas Resort and Spa where beautiful views of the Pacific abound and returns to connect with the half marathon course.

The half marathon course will begin at Micro Beach, traveling south along Beach Road where participants will have scenic views of the Saipan lagoon, through the villages of Garapan, San Jose, Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, and San Antonio.

The turnaround is at the main entrance of the Pacific Islands Club and returns and finishes at Micro Beach. The 10-km course will begin at Micro Beach, traveling south along Beach Road, through the villages of Garapan and San Jose. The turnaround is at Ladera Center and returns and finish at Micro Beach.

The age divisions for the full marathon are up to 40, 40-49, and 50 years and up. The half and 10-km age groups are 14-and-under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60 plus.

Prizes will be given out for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category.

Raffle drawings will also be on the banquet so not only do participants have a chance to race, they also have a chance to win more prizes. All runners will receive a finisher's T-shirt after the event.

The major sponsor of the 2008 Festival of Runs is Duty Free Shoppers.

For more information, contact Ed Diaz at 664-3210 or email at ediaz@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

FLYNN

From Page 28

Ohio State once again fell apart in college football's biggest game. A year after the Buckeyes were routed by Tim Tebow and Florida 41-14 in the Arizona desert, they barely did better.

"We just didn't do the things you need to do to win a ballgame of this nature. We're very aware that LSU's a deserving champion," Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said.

Jacob Hester bulled for a short touchdown, Early Doucet wiggled loose for a touchdown and Dorsey led a unit that outplayed the top-ranked defense in the nation.

Ohio State (11-2) had little to celebrate after Chris "Beanie" Wells broke loose for a 65-yard TD run on the fourth play of the game.

Yet while LSU coach Les Miles got to hoist the $30,000 crystal trophy, certainly many fans around the country were peering into their crystal balls, wondering if someone else was worthy of the title. Southern California, Georgia, West Virginia, Kansas and Missouri all put on impressive shows in bowl games, and will be among the favorites in 2008.

The final Associated Press poll was to be released early Tuesday.

LSU, whose two losses both came in triple overtime, became just the fourth favorite to win in 10 BCS championship games. The Tigers added to the crown they won in 2003—their other title came in 1958.

Miles probably got a little extra satisfaction, too. Though he turned down a chance to return home to Michigan, he did something his alma mater hasn't done recently—beat the Buckeyes.

The loss left Ohio State at 0-9 overall in bowl games against teams from the Southeastern Conference. The SEC delights in whipping Big Ten teams in what's become a rivalry that steams up fans on both sides.

The Tigers rallied from an early 10-0 deficit, taking a 24-10 halftime lead that held up. Two big plays on special teams kept them ahead - they blocked a field goal, and later took advantage of a roughing-the-kicker penalty.

Flynn hit Doucet with a 4-yard toss with 9:04 left for a 31-10 lead and the celebration was on in earnest. The Buckeyes made the score more respectable on Todd Boeckman's 5-yard TD pass on fourth down to Brian Robiskie, only to have Flynn come back and throw his second TD pass to Richard Dickson.

As the clock ticked down, Boeckman threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to Brian Hartline.

Ohio State was trying to win its second BCS title in six years, and add to the one that Tressel captured by upsetting Miami 31-24 in double overtime for the 2002 championship.

For sure, the Buckeyes were perhaps the most-maligned No. 1 team in recent memory, with critics attacking them all season. Tressel gave his players a 10-minute DVD filled with insults hurled at them by television and radio announcers, hoping it would motivate his team.

Instead, the Tigers ravaged the nation's best defense and showed that maybe all those naysayers were right.

Known as a punishing runner, Wells got the game off to a quick start. On the fourth play from scrimmage, the Buckeyes' bruising back started left, made a nifty cut right and burst through the middle.

Wells was gone, off on the longest run of his career. And so much for SEC speed - Wells outran All-America safety Craig Steltz for a 65-yard TD.

Wells was welcomed by a familiar face once he got back to the sideline. Miami Dolphins receiver Ted Ginn Jr., wearing scarlet and gray Mardi Gras beads, knew all about early strikes. He provided Ohio State's only highlight in last year's BCS title game, returning the opening kickoff for a touchdown.

This time, Ohio State made it 10-0 on its next possession. Boeckman hit a wide-open Brandon Saine for 44 yards, setting up Ryan Pretorius' 25-yard field goal.

Only five minutes into the game, Ohio State and its all-brass band was blowing away the Tigers. LSU looked dazed and defensive coordinator Bo Pelini—who now becomes Nebraska's full-time coach—had few answers.

Fortunately for the Tigers, their offense started clicking. On a team full of flash, it was the steady ol' Hester who settled down LSU.

First, he barreled into All-America linebacker James Laurinaitis for a short gain. Both players are the rugged type and in a nice show of sportsmanship, Laurinaitis—whose dad, Joe, once starred as "Animal" in the "Legion of Doom" wrestling tag team—helped up Hester.

Hester broke off a 20-yard run on the next play, and LSU eventually got a 32-yard field goal from Colt David that made it 10-3.

That score late in the first quarter seemed to jazz everyone in purple and gold. The Tigers zoomed into fast motion, the band's Golden Girls suddenly put more bounce in their step and thousands of fans started screaming even louder.

Flynn also seemed to recognize exactly what Ohio State was trying to do. LSU quarterbacks spend a lot of time with an Xbox, playing a custom-made video game to read defenses. Apparently, what worked on the screen did even better on the field.

Two big penalties against Ohio State helped set up Flynn's 13-yard touchdown pass to Dickson, who somehow found himself uncovered. Flynn punctuated the strike by hollering, giving a wild fist pump and putting up both hands to signal TD.

Tied at 10, the Buckeyes countered on Wells. He delivered one of the season's best stiff-arms on a 29-yard romp, and Ohio State seemed poised to retake the lead.

Instead, LSU defensive end Ricky Jean-Francois crashed through the middle, swung his big right arm and blocked Pretorius' 38-yard field goal try.

As Ohio State trudged off the field and LSU ran on, it was all over. It only took a while to confirm it.

LSU turned to another of its five dangerous tailbacks, and NCAA sprint star Trindon Holliday zigzagged closer to the goal line. Flynn's perfect pass to Brandon LaFell in the back left corner of the end zone put the Tigers ahead 17-10.

Then, it was time for LSU's defense to make the big play. Cornerback Chevis Jackson intercepted Boeckman's loss toss and streaked 34 yards down the right sideline.

The Tigers moved to a first-and-goal at 1. On third down, Hester plunged up the middle and it was 24-10 with four-plus minutes left in the first half.

No doubt, this was a replay the Buckeyes hoped to avoid. Last January, the top-ranked Buckeyes got blitzed in the BCS title game, falling behind 34-14 at halftime to Florida.

On this night, the Buckeyes were equally humbled. Done in the locker room, offensive coordinator Jim Bollman led a silent, single-file line of coaches through the press box and back to their booth for the second half.

FINAL

From Page 28

Ohio State (11-2), meanwhile, could not vanquish the ghosts caused by last season's championship loss to Florida, with LSU being the latest SEC team to torment the Buckeyes. In fact, it is looking as if Ohio State has as good a chance of beating an SEC team as one of the state's congressmen, Dennis Kucinich, has of winning the presidency.

Ohio State dropped to 0-9 against the SEC, although Monday night's wasn't quite as one-sided as the 41-14 loss to Florida in 2007. The Buckeyes rarely moved the ball against the Gators; Monday night, they outgained the Tigers 353-326 but even that was misleading. LSU mostly had its way with the nation's top-ranked defense, going 11 for 18 on third downs, including a remarkable 8 for 10 in the first half as it built a 24-10 lead.

LSU fifth-year senior quarterback Matt Flynn, JaMarcus Russell's backup the past two seasons, did something last year's No. 1 NFL draft pick never did by winning a national title. Flynn hit six receivers in going 19 for 27 for 174 yards and four touchdowns.

"Not a bad way to end a college career," said Flynn, who decided to stay at LSU for this season only after Russell declared for the draft. "I feel blessed to be part of such a great team."

Flynn hit Early Doucet seven times for 51 yards and a touchdown and tight end Richard Dickson four times for 44 yards and two touchdowns. Dickson's 5-yard touchdown reception with 1:50 left made it 38-17.

Ohio State quarterback Todd Boeckman went 15 for 26 for 208 yards with two touchdowns, but also had an interception and fumble in the second half that eliminated any faint hopes of a Buckeyes comeback.

Monday night had an eerily similar start to the 2007 title game for Ohio State as Chris "Beanie" Wells, who finished with 146 yards, ripped through a huge hole in the right side of the line and ran 65 yards for a touchdown and a 7-0 lead with 13:34 left. The Buckeyes even made it 10-0 on Ryan Pretorious' 25-yard field goal with 9:12 left. But just as Ted Ginn returning the opening kickoff 93 yards for a score against Florida last season made little difference in the end, so too did Monday night's fast start.

LSU trailed 10-3 after the first quarter and was outgained 147-57, but that was the only quarter it didn't dominate.

Dickson's 13-yard touchdown catch with 13 minutes left in the second quarter tied it at 10-10, and Brandon LaFell's 10-yarder made it 17-10 with 7:25 left. That LSU scoring drive was preceded by a huge special-teams play when Ricky Jean-Francois blocked Pretorious' 38-yard field goal that would have given Ohio State the lead with 10:53 left in the second quarter.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	29	3	.906	_
New Jersey	17	16	.515	12 1/2
Toronto	17	17	.500	13
Philadelphia	14	20	.412	16
New York	8	24	.250	21

Southeast Division

Orlando	22	13	.629	_
Washington	17	15	.531	3 1/2
Atlanta	15	16	.484	5
Charlotte	11	21	.344	9 1/2
Miami	8	26	.235	13 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	26	8	.765	_
Cleveland	17	17	.500	9
Indiana	16	19	.457	10 1/2
Chicago	13	19	.406	12
Milwaukee	13	20	.394	12 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	23	10	.697	_
Dallas	23	11	.676	1/2
New Orleans	23	11	.676	1/2
Houston	17	17	.500	6 1/2
Memphis	10	23	.303	13

Northwest Division

Denver	21	13	.618	_
Portland	21	13	.618	_
Utah	18	17	.514	3 1/2
Seattle	9	24	.273	11 1/2
Minnesota	4	29	.121	16 1/2

Pacific Division

Phoenix	24	10	.706	_
L.A. Lakers	21	11	.656	2
Golden State	20	15	.571	4 1/2
Sacramento	12	20	.375	11
L.A. Clippers	10	21	.323	12 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Phoenix 137, Denver 115

Golden State 130, San Antonio 121, OT

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Bud Cup Standings

x-Ol'Aces	11	1
y-Suns	10	2
y-Rock Steady	9	2
y-Sonics	9	3
y-Junior Nationals	7	4
Runnin Rebels	6	5
Bombers	6	6
G-Rollers I	5	6
PTI/FMI	5	6
D-I Ulloa's	4	7
G-Rollers II	3	9
Lali IV	1	11
Proa	0	12

x-wins pennant

y-clinch playoff spot

Wonenberg resumes hard training

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

SPORTS FLIGHT

Rising athlete Jacque Wonenberg joined other Northern Marianas Athletics mainstays in preparing for this year's Oceania Athletics Association Under-18 Championships and Grand Prix Series.

Wonenberg said she and the rest of the team resumed their training at the Oleai Track and Field Facility at the Susupe Sports Complex last Jan. 2. She said they would be training harder for the upcoming competition.

"I am going to do my best in the OAA Championships this year, as will the rest of the team," Wonenberg said.

Wonenberg added she is expecting CNMI records would be broken and new personal best times would be recorded by NMA athletes in the OOA Championships and Grand Prix Series to be held from June 25 to June 28.

"I'm certain you will be able to expect broken records and new PBs from team CNMI," Wonenberg said. "As a member of the team, I have high hopes that we will continue to do our best in future competitions."

Wonenberg hopes her four-medal haul in the 3rd Micronesian Athletics Championship last month in Guam would also translate into victories for the CNMI in June this year.

Wonenberg won two gold, a silver, and a bronze medal in the Guam MAC. She won her first gold in the 400m run (1:03.71) then added the second gold in the long jump (4.47m).

JON PEREZ
Jacque Wonenberg runs toward the finish line of the 25th Annual Christmas Island Relay on Dec. 29 at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

"I feel very happy about the accomplishments I achieved last month. It was indeed a very busy month but it was a lot of fun and I'm just glad that I was able to bring back some medals for the CNMI from the MAC," Wonenberg said.

She also anchored the CNMI 4x400m and 4x100m relay teams to a silver (4:42.42) and a bronze (56.59) medal finishes while placing fifth and seventh in the javelin throw and 100m finals.

Wonenberg could have added another bronze in the 200m finals but failed in her medal bid after the event took place right after the finals of the 400m run. NMA developmental officer Elias Rangamar said Wonenberg was too tired to compete but still managed to finish fourth with a time of 28.84 seconds.

Rangamar added the reason he entered Wonenberg in several events is to prepare her for the pentathlon events.

Wonenberg said there is also a possibility that she might compete in other off-island competitions this year. "I'm not sure where's the next competition is going to be but I believe it will be in Guam."

The 15-year-old Marianas High School sophomore also enjoyed every bit of the holiday break where she spent quality time with her family and friends. "I enjoyed every single day of the break that I had. I had nothing but fun."

She said she hopes to get a scholarship through athletics when she goes to college in the mainland. "I would like to study physical education and fitness and health or a field of study along those lines."

Heo to play in singles, doubles events

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

ITF

Ji Hoon Heo will play in the 16-and-under singles and doubles events of the 2008 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup, which started yesterday at the Albury Tennis Association courts in Towsend St. Albury, New South Wales.

Competition will run from Jan. 8 to 12 where boys and girls events in the 10-, 12-, 14-, 16-, and 18-and-under age division titles will be contested by a total of 359 players.

There are 128 players in the boys' 16-and-under singles where Heo drew a bye in the first round of the main draw. He faced Wodonga's Dane Hallinan in the Round of 64 yesterday.

Their match was scheduled at 1pm but results were not yet available at press time. The winner will face the winner of the match between the 11th ranked Joel Morrison of Victoria and Benjamin Gordon at 8:30am today.

Heo will also team up with fellow International Tennis Federation Pacific-Oceania Junior touring team member William O'Connell in the main draw of the boys' 16-and-under doubles.

They will play against Northern Territory's Dominic De Nichilo and George Shepard at 5pm today with the winner facing the second-seeded pair of Morrison and Ethan Scobie of the Northern Territory on Thursday.

After the Margaret Courth Cup, Heo's next tournament will be the CountryLink Victoria Junior Grasscourt Championships in Wodonga from Jan. 12 to 15.

Heo also reached the semifinal round of the consolation draw of two age divisions in the 2008 Ducats G.V. Junior Tennis Tournament in Shepparton, Australia last Sunday where he lost to tougher opponents from the host team at the Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club.

Heo made it to the main draw's Round of 32 of both age divisions, scoring wins in the first two rounds. A total of 128 players were entered each in the 18-and-under and 16-and-under age groups.

Heo is competing in his first Australian junior championship tournament after being invited to become a member of the International Tennis Federation Pacific-Oceania Junior touring team late last year.

Heo received an invitation to join the ITF Pacific-Oceania Junior touring team in Australia last October. He left Saipan last Dec. 27 to join a group of Under-18 players that will travel around Australia from Dec. 30 to Jan. 18.

GTF inviting local, pro triathletes

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

GUAM TRIATHLON FEDERATION

The Guam Triathlon Federation is inviting local and professional triathletes to join them in the 2008 XTERRA Guam scheduled two weeks after the Pacific Islands Club Double on Saipan on March 29.

The PIC Double, which is part of the Saipan Sportsfest, is the combined times of the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship and 18th Tagaman Triathlon, which will be held on March 8 and 15.

The GTF sent the invitation to the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation email. GTF president Eric Tydingco said they are extending a personal invitation to visit Saipan's southern neighbor for the XTERRA points race.

"It would be great to have you all experience our event. And of course, we appreciate the opportunity to return the hospitality that you have shown us in our visits to Saipan," Tydingco said in the email.

The XTERRA Guam sprint distance off-road triathlon has a 1-kilometer swim, 27-km bike up Nimitz Hill and through the Mt. Alutom area, and a challenging 5-km trail run.

Tydingco, whose son Keenan won the men's individual triathlon gold in the 6th Micronesian Games on Saipan, said Guam has been thankful for the NMITF's hospitality every time they have been competing in the CNMI.

Guam triathletes annually join the XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman triathlons. They also send representatives to the Hell of the North cycling race, the Rota Blue and Tinian Turquoise triathlons.

Tydingco said GTF would again support the Saipan Sportsfest by sending a big number of athletes for the XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman events. "I look forward to seeing you on Saipan and Guam [this March]."

Tydingco added that they also completed GTF's calendar of events for the year and also invited Saipan triathletes to join them if they are visiting Guam during the race.

"If you are ever in Guam for business [or] pleasure and your visit coincides with one of our club events, please feel free to contact me. I'll see if I can get you a bike to use," said Tydingco.

For more information about XTERRA Guam or the GTF, contact Tydingco via email at eric@triathlonguam.com. You can also visit the XTERRA Guam website at www.xterra-guam.com or the GTF website at www.triathlonguam.com.

Bombers slip past Jr. Nationals, keep playoff bid alive

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

BANMI Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands

The Bombers squeezed out an 85-84 win over the CNMI Junior Nationals in Monday night's second game in the 2007 BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win by the Bombers of coach Andy Nepaial kept alive their flickering playoffs bid alive as they closed the elimination round with an even 6-6 slate to occupy seventh place.

The Junior Nationals, which already clinched a playoff spot, remained at fifth place with a 7-4 mark.

The Junior Nationals could have won the game after having good looks at the basket in the last seconds of the fourth quarter, but their shots could not find the bottom of the net.

They had five shot attempts in the final 10 seconds of the match but they overshot their attempts or the ball just rolled on the rim.

Holding on to a precarious 85-84 lead, the Bombers played heads up defense with the Twin Tower combination of Richard Brostrom and Spencer Johnson holding their own against the Junior Nationals' scorers.

Brostrom and Johnson's presence either forced the Junior Nationals to change their shots inside the paint or go for the outside jumper.

Neither team led by as much as 10 points. The Bombers started with an 8-0 spurt but the Junior Nationals countered with their own scoring run en route to a 28-20 advantage after the first quarter.

Ed Palma's outside shooting also helped the Bombers' cause as the veteran guard buried eight 3-pointers on his way to finishing with a season-high 43 points.

Johnson and Brostrom added 16 and 14 points each as they more than made up for the so-so game of Bruce Berline, who finished with just two points.

Jericho Cruz paced the Junior Nationals with a team-high 34 points, while Keoni Chariton, Bill Babauta, and Won Joo Jung scored 14, 11, and 10, respectively.

The last playoff spot will be a toss-up between Marianas Health Services G-Rollers I and PTI/FMI after the Runnin' Rebels defeated the Telesource Proa, 107-77, in the first game to secure a spot in the next round.

Joey Dela Cruz finished with a game-high 25 points to lead six other Rebels who finished in double figures.

Mike Olaitiman and Tyrone Omar had 16 and 15 apiece, while Jose Tumaquip and Charlie Peters added 13 and 12 markers. Dexter Dillay and Joelan Mendoza each finished with 10 points.

Kevin Castro led Proa with 20 points, while Flaviano Hideo had a breakout game finishing with 18 markers. Chris Tomokane and Bobby Coldeen chipped in 15 and 14 each.

The Rebels face the Junior Nationals at 7pm today, while the G-Rollers will try to stay alive when they clash with Rock Steady in the 8:30pm second game.

PTI/FMI closes out its elimination round campaign, where they also hope to earn the last ticket to the playoffs, when they meet the D-1Ulloa's at 7pm on Friday.

JON PEREZ
The Bombers' Bruce Berline, left, establishes his defense against Keoni Chariton of the CNMI Junior Nationals in their Monday night's game in the 2007 BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

First Game

Runnin' Rebels 107 – Dela Cruz 25, Olaitiman 16, Omar 15, Tumaquip 13, Peters 12, Dillay 10, Mendoza 10, Iguel 6.

Telesource Proa 77 – Castro 20, Hideo 18, C. Tomokane 15, Coldeen 14, Deleon Guerrero 8, J. Tomokane 2.

Scoring by halves: 19-14, 44-36, 70-53, 107-77.

Second Game

Bombers 85 – Palma 43, Johnson 16, Brostrom 14, Punzalan 4, Warfield 3, Berline 2, Sarmiento 2, Gabaldon 1.

Junior Nationals 84 – Cruz 34, Chariton 14, Babauta 11, Jung 10, Moses 6, Kim 4, Rabauliman 3, Deleon Guerrero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-28, 37-35, 67-61, 85-84.

Flynn, LSU beat Ohio State for BCS title

Final game, at last, follows form

By ERIC BOLAND
(c) 2008, Newsday

NEW ORLEANS—It was the big easy in the Big Easy as finally something in this unpredictable college football season went the way it was supposed to.

A year of unprecedented tumult in the polls—caused by the slew of upsets that occurred almost weekly—provided the backdrop to Monday night's BCS championship game between Ohio State and LSU. And it was LSU, a team that volleyed in the rankings as much as anyone that ended up winning the title many predicted it would before this wild season began.

LSU, which started the year ranked No. 2 and would go on to lose the No. 1 spot twice, flogged top-ranked Ohio State, 38-24, in front of a mostly pro-Tigers crowd of 79,651 at the Superdome. LSU (12-2), which scored 31 straight points after falling in a 10-0 hole, won the BCS title for the second time in five years, this time for third-year coach Les Miles. When LSU won a share of the 2003 national title with USC, the AP champion that season, it was coached by Nick Saban.

"I always had great confidence in this team," Miles said of the first two-loss team to qualify for a BCS title game. "Once we got here, I knew we'd do our best."

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AP

LSU quarterback Matt Flynn (15) holds up the BCS championship trophy as coach Les Miles looks on a the end of the BCS championship college football game against Ohio State at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans, Monday, Jan. 7, 2008. Right, SU defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey holds up a copy of the Times Picayune at the end of the game against Ohio State in the BCS championship college football game at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans, Monday, Jan. 7, 2008.

By BEN WALKER
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Too easy. No. 2 LSU danced, dodged and darted its way into the end zone Monday night, turning the BCS national championship game into a horrible replay for No. 1 Ohio State. It was over early, with Matt Flynn throwing four touchdown passes in a 38-24 win.

Playing at their home-away-from-home in the Big Easy, the Tigers (12-2) became the first two-loss team to play for the title.

Shouts of "SEC! SEC!" bounced around the Superdome as the Tigers won their second BCS crown in five seasons. They are the first school to win a second title since BCS rankings began with the 1998 season.

"My team is the No. 1 team in the land," said All-American defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey, who passed up the NFL draft to return for his senior season.

And in a season of surprises, this was hardly an upset:

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